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# FIRM IS READY TO RECRUIT 180

Report by Jamie Brassington

A MAJOR recruitment drive has been launched by a Halesowen-based engineering company to create more than 180 apprenticeships.

Lander Automotive, Woodgate Business Park, which manufactures products for the motor vehicle industry, is aiming to recruit young people to join the company over the next two years.

Lander Automotive operations director Len Palmer said: "Their apprenticeship will initially be for 12 months and they will then have the opportunity to progress onto an 18-month second year apprenticeship, expanding the lean manufacturing and skills for operational excellence."

"Growing the business through the apprenticeship route will regenerate our workforce, bring some fresh blood into the business and address future skills shortages."

He continued: "Our aim is to have a multi-skilled workforce who have the capabilities to further develop the business in this area - creating even more job opportunities in the local community."

## Components

The company currently employs 400 people at its purpose-built engineering plant and is expanding and upskilling the workforce.

A bespoke Adult Apprenticeship skills programme will also be set up for existing staff.

The company makes parts that are used in vehicles made by such as Jaguar, Land Rover and Nissan. These include full seat metal structures, fluid pipes and cooling system pipes, airbag pipes and airbag canisters along with instrument panels and chassis components.

Mr Palmer paid tribute to the history of Black Country manufacturing which will help youngsters have a good understanding of engineering.

He said: "This area is traditionally rooted in the automotive industry and I am sure that many of the young people applying for apprenticeship roles with us will have a family history of working in this field and therefore a good understanding of the extensive career opportunities available to them."

The apprenticeship will be delivered with the help of Sigma Group and Derby College. Those interested in applying can get in touch via the [www.apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk) website.

Mr Palmer added: "With an expanding worldwide order book, we have teamed up with Sigma Group to grow and develop our workforce and are keen to source this future talent from the local community."

Sigma Group CEO Brendan Hand said it would be the first manufacturing skills Academy in the area.

## ROMSTOCK REVELS WILL ROCK VILLAGE AGAIN



Acts get ready for this Saturday's village music festival at Romsley, which promises to be the best yet, to mark its fifth year

A VILLAGE music festival returns this weekend with a bumper line-up of entertainment.

Organisers say the line up for the Romstock Festival is the best they have assembled for the annual event held in Romsley, near Halesowen. On Saturday it returns for the fifth year.

Highlights include tribute bands, folk and soul acts and DJs.

Alongside the music, there will be food stalls, bars and activities such as bouncy castles.

Tribute acts Okasis and The Jam DRC

feature along with folk rockers Colin Hall's Gypsy Blood and ska/soul band Rudi and the Revellers. Stourbridge's Esther Turner, Izzy the Push, The Starving Dogs and an Elvis act will also entertain the crowds, along with Stourbridge DJ Paul Foster.

## Poet

Event compere is former Birmingham Poet Laureate Giovanni 'Spoz' Esposito.

Band co-ordinator Mark Moran said: "This is the best-ever Romstock line up and there is truly something for everyone."

Romstock was originally launched in 2012. Organiser Dave Powell said: "Last year was our best yet with some 1,500 people attending. We are hoping that this year will surpass last and we have a few surprises planned."

It takes place on the village playing field, off St Kenelms Road, with the first band on stage at 12.15pm. The event ends around 8pm

Advance tickets are £7 adults (£10 on the day) and £2.50 for children. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is £15. Tickets can be bought from The Spar in Romsley. All profits go to projects in the parish.

## RESCUE

### Attempted murder charge after blaze

HERO neighbours saved a woman and her daughter from a burning house in Cradley after hearing cries for help.

Jodie Gaar, aged 26, was in the property alongside her six-year-old daughter when the blaze broke out in Chapelhouse Lane in the early hours of June 3.

Daniel Watkins, 34, of Smiths Close, Alcester, has appeared before Dudley Magistrates charged with two counts of attempted murder in connection with the fire. He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 4.

## COMMUNITY

### Population rising by 1,000 per year

THE population of Dudley is set to increase by more than 20,000 over the next two decades – a rise of nearly 1,000 people per year.

New figures show the population will rise by 6.6 per cent to 338,000 by 2039. But that increase prediction is the lowest in the West Midlands.

Neighbouring Sandwell is set to see its population rocket by more than 50,000 over the next two decades, putting pressure on homes, schools and hospitals.

## CAMPAIGN

### FA bosses criticised by Astle's daughter

BAGGIES legend Jeff Astle's daughter has criticised the Football Association over delays into research on head injuries.

Dawn Astle was promised that answers she gave to the FA in 2014 would be passed on to football's global governing body.

But last month the FA said the responses would be sent to Fifa 'imminently' – more than a year after she was initially promised.

FA chairman Greg Dyke has responded to Ms Astle with an apology after it emerged that four England World Cup winners are suffering from memory problems.

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## INSIDE

### REMEMBERING THE GREATEST



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EDITORIAL:  
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205  
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430  
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope  
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E-mail: nico.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan  
Tel: 01902 319627  
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt  
Tel: 01384 353244  
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:  
Tel: 01902 317878  
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones  
Tel: 01902 319990  
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# Teen mother shook her baby, then lied

A TEENAGE mother who shook her baby so hard he had two bleeds on the brain has been spared prison. The 19-year-old 'snapped' when the three-month-old boy did not take an early morning feed, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"She asserts that he was not taking to his food well, was scratchy, irritable and not responding so she took hold of him under the armpit area and shook him with some force," explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

The young Black Country woman – who is now 21 and cannot be named for legal reasons – was driven with guilt but went back to bed and did not wake for five hours. The child was downstairs with

her then boyfriend and did not appear unwell but became limp and unresponsive afterwards.

The child was taken to hospital where the mother lied to doctors about what had happened. Initially she blamed her boyfriend and a two-year-old cousin for the injury, revealed Mr Spratt. She did not admit the truth until three months later. Scans revealed the baby had two bleeds on the brain and also some bleeding behind the eyes. Experts agreed these were the result of shaking. There were no other injuries. The boy had three small fits while in hospital after the January 7, 2014, incident but none since.

The boy is now in care with the mother, who

had no previous convictions, allowed monthly supervised access. Her former boyfriend is serving a prison sentence after stabbing her.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "She was a very young mother effectively bringing up the baby as a single parent because her partner at the time was of little or no support. It was a difficult, abusive relationship. In the early morning she snapped after becoming frustrated and harmed a child to whom she was devoted. As a result of her wrongdoing she has lost him."

The mother admitted ill treating a child. She was given an 18 month jail term suspended under supervision for two years.

# Train delays after lorry is wedged under bridge

RAIL services were delayed after a lorry got stuck under a bridge in the Black Country.

The HGV became lodged under the bridge next to Sandwell and Dudley station in Bromford Road, Oldbury just before 6pm last Tuesday.

A Network Rail spokesman said no services were able to run over the bridge until it was inspected for safety purposes – but it was reopened after about 10 minutes.

The road was blocked southbound between Cornwallis Road and Fountain Lane, affecting traffic heading into Oldbury. Motorists were urged to find alternative routes to avoid becoming snarled up in the queues. The street was fully reopened until around 8.30pm.

Oldbury ward councillor Suzanne Hartwell said: "As long as there were no serious injuries and the driver was okay – apart from being a bit shocked – that's what really matters."

"You can't really help the delays on the trains and roads as they needed to make sure it was safe for everyone before moving the lorry."

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "A lorry struck a bridge near Sandwell and Dudley station on Tuesday at around 6pm."

"After an inspection the railway reopened around 10 minutes later when services returned to normal."

Sandwell and Dudley station recorded the biggest increase in users of all stations across the Black Country last year.

# Sadistic killer inflicted 85 injuries on victim

A SADISTIC murderer has been locked up for at least 18 years after deliberately making his victim suffer by inflicting 85 injuries.

Drunken Daniel Jones attacked Paul Tompkins – a vulnerable former mental health patient – with his fists, feet and weapons.

The 34-year-old used a knife, scissors, table fork, even a stereo system and pieces of a table to inflict wounds to the head, face and chest of the 59-year-old, who was murdered in his Stourbridge home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Judge James Burbidge QC told Jones: "This was a prolonged attack of exceptional brutality causing pain and suffering. You left him with many injuries that caused his death."

"You were drinking together and after some hours something caused you to turn against him. What that spark was we will never know because he is dead and you now say you cannot recall the cause."

In the onslaught against Mr Tompkins, who lived alone in a ground floor flat in Forge Road, Wollaston, every rib bar one on the left side of his body was fractured.

## Throttle

The victim's neck showed signs of an attempt to throttle him with a length of cable, while defence injuries to his arms showed how he struggled to fend off the blows.

On New Year's Day a couple in the flat above the home of Mr Tompkins heard Jones shout: 'Where is it? If you don't give it to me I will kill you'. There were crashing and banging sounds.

Before Jones left his victim dead or dying, he reached across the body to unplug and steal a new flat screen TV. Jones sold the TV for £30 but was arrested the same day following a call to police from a man to whom the murderer had confessed.

Judge Burbidge said: "It was as callous an act as there might be. He was dying and you took what appears to be the only valuable possession he had."

Mr Michael Burrows, defending, said Jones was "horrified and ashamed" by what he did, adding: "He was plainly affected by drink and has no clear recollection."

## Hard work starts now theatre saved



Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Sam Perks, Gordon Downing, Ivor Robinson and Garry Sawers (Black Country Gaz)

THE hard work has now started for campaigners handed the lease for Dudley Hippodrome.

The priority for the campaign group, who have taken over the Castle Hill landmark, is to tackle asbestos inside the former theatre and bingo hall.

Dudley Council handed the keys to the building over to campaigners who plan to rejuvenate the site.

It was revealed last week that a group fighting to save the iconic venue had been given a five-year

lease by Dudley Council to reopen it. That was cause for celebration as the keys to the building were handed to Black Country Hippodrome Ltd.

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "It's certainly a big move forward but obviously there are still one or two hurdles."

"The first major problem is going to be dealing with all the asbestos and the first of our fundraising will go towards doing that."

"We would love money to come forward from anywhere, now we're going to take control of the building."

Once we've got the asbestos to a safe level then we'll need to get someone in to give us a full assessment of the building from an expert point of view."

"That will give us more of an idea of the fundraising required."

Council chiefs had plans to demolish the building but these have now been shelved.

## Labour club site sells for £165k

THE former Cradley Heath Labour Club is under new ownership after being bought for a six-figure sum.

The Graingers Lane venue shut suddenly last year after the committee in charge revealed they could no longer afford to keep it running.

It sold for £165,000 at a recent auction at Aston Villa Football Club. The new owners have not been revealed although property developers had expressed an interest in buying the club when it was put on the market.

The club was extremely popular during the 1980s and 1990s and would regularly draw in large crowds. Live bands and other entertainment were also a feature. It closed suddenly last August having been a fixture in the town for almost a century.

## Plans lodged for amusement arcade

A NEW amusement arcade could be opening in a former cafe in Halesowen town centre.

Plans to open the amusement arcade on the site of a former cafe on the Queensway have been lodged with Dudley planning chiefs.

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# Dismay as retail giant BHS set to disappear

SHOPPERS came to pay their last respects to BHS after it was announced that all the group's stores are closing with blame firmly being laid with former owner Sir Phillip Green.

It was confirmed last week that the High Street giant is to disappear with 11,000 job losses nationwide.

The company has been a fixture across the West Midlands with major stores in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Merry Hill, Telford and Birmingham.

Former owner billionaire Sir Phillip Green has been criticised for paying a £400 million dividend to his family from the business and for his management of the pension scheme. He will face questions from MPs.

Councillor David Sparks, of Dudley Council, said: "BHS is one of the anchor stores in the Merry Hill shopping development so I would expect another major retailer will step in to take over that store. The collapse of BHS has to be investigated at the highest level."

In Wolverhampton, shoppers called the announcement 'real shame'. Tom Lennon, a 59-year-old self-employed contractor from Brewood, pointed the finger of blame at Sir Phillip: "He has shown himself to be the unacceptable face of capitalism. The hundreds of millions he took out of the company could have been put back into revamping stores. Our high street is disappearing."

Debbie Addington, 57, from Coseley, said: "It is like what happened with Woolworths. You start to think about what we are left with."

## Opportunity for DIY innovation

INVENTORS in Dudley have been urged to share their innovative construction or DIY product ideas as part of a new contest.

Successful winners in the Travis Perkins Innovation Awards could be offered up to £10,000 of funding or a product trial at the FTSE100 distributor's network of Travis Perkins branches.

The timber and builders merchant has a base in Pear Tree Lane. Rob Searl, branch manager at Travis Perkins Dudley, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for absolutely anyone to develop a new business and could even see their product on the shelves of Travis Perkins branches."

For further information or to enter visit [www.tpiawards.co.uk](http://www.tpiawards.co.uk) website.

## Delays warning as pipes replaced

MOTORISTS can expect delays as roadworks are being carried out during work to replace gas pipes by National Grid along Corngreaves Road and Graingers Lane in Cradley Heath until June 10.

# When The Greatest came to Dudley



Muhammad Ali in Dudley in 1983

THE 'world' is invited to the funeral of Muhammad Ali – as boxing figures across the Black Country paid tribute to the 'The Greatest'.

A huge procession and funeral will be held in his home town of Louisville, Kentucky, tomorrow (Friday) to 'allow anyone that is there from the world to say goodbye', his family says.

Tributes have flooded in from around the world, including a eulogy from President Obama – and there have also been memories of his visits to the Black Country.

Ali first came to the region in 1979

and returned again in 1983, opening a car parts shop in Dudley, giving a speech at a Wolverhampton hotel and then visiting a fan's house in Oxley – only to find he was on holiday!

Ali Fever swept through the region with crowds following him wherever he went, including a ribbon-cutting at Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley and a visit to the Sheraton near Chapel Ash in Wolverhampton. Those who bore witness to the scenes and even got to speak to the great man described him as the playful, charismatic, charming, witty, humble and unpredictable.

Businessman Terry Carvin from Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley said the boxer's visit attracted 2,000 fans. The 69-year-old said: "He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. He must have been there a good four hours."

Pat Smith, aged 60, of Oxley, recalls Ali visiting her auntie's home nearby. Her father, Lesley Ward, had become a close friend of Ali and been to several of his fights. But on the day he visited, Les was in Australia on holiday – so had to speak with his hero over the phone instead.

• Special times – page 6

# Ho! Ho! No! Christmas lights put under threat

## TRADERS fear Halesowen will not have Christmas lights this year after cash-strapped Dudley Council cut the budget by half.

The authority says it is facing the 'biggest cuts in local government history' and cannot allocate the required funds as in previous years.

Dudley Council has halved the Christmas lights budget from £8,000 which businessman have called 'a blow'.

The council set aside the money for the town's traders each year who then organise the festive decorations.

Halesowen traders are to hold discussions with the council over the cuts but are sceptical of negotiating a better deal.

Wayne Edwards, Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Commerce, said: "The cuts are a blow. We are debating now whether we can put the lights on due to the cuts."

"We have one of the biggest shows of Christmas lights each year which Dudley Council recognises.

"Unless there is a change in the funding Halesowen won't have any Christmas lights this year. But that will depend on the outcome of the meeting. It is a hard time at the moment for businesses."

### Funding

Traders are set to meet up and discuss how they can source the funding alternatively. Funds are also donated from community forums in Dudley, which totals around £5,000, as well as business in Halesowen, which totals between £6,000 to £7,000.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "These are unprecedented times for the council with significantly reduced funding to not only deliver events across the borough but also key services to our most vulnerable children and the elderly."

"We are sympathetic to the traders' concerns and would not be making any cut unless we had had the biggest cuts in local government history."

"Like all local authorities, we are simply not in a position to continue subsidising events to the levels of previous years."

"However, this year we will still be giving the four main town centres £4,000 towards putting on a Christmas event which includes security, staging, first aid, staffing, trees and lights and much more."



Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif is calling on people to get new flags to replace tatty Black Country banners like the one held by James Stevens

## Call to fly fresh new flag with real pride

BLACK Country folk have been urged to 'take down their tatty flags' ahead of this year's Black Country Festival with a limited number of free flags up for grabs.

The festival is now in its third year and organisers said many of the flags hanging from shops, homes and other buildings have seen better days.

The Black Country flags have been a massive success and have been spotted being waved at such high-profile events as the Glastonbury Festival and at the football World Cup in Brazil.

This year's month-long festival kicks off in July with events across the borough, culminating in Black Country Day on July 14 and activities in Dudley town centre on July 16.

Organisers are urging people to snap up new flags to make sure this year's festival kicks off in style. Flags are available from the Black Country T Shirts shop in Dudley town centre, who will donate profits from sales to the festival. Call Black Country T Shirts, Castle Street, on (01384) 639 392 or email [admin@blackcountrytshirts.com](mailto:admin@blackcountrytshirts.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Free Euro football matches at cinema

FOOTBALL fans can enjoy all the home nations' games from this summer's European Championships in France on the big screen at Dudley's Showcase Cinema.

Showcase will be screening all British sides in action live and for free this summer, including England's opening game against Russia on Saturday evening. The Castlegate venue has high definition screens and surround sound. Tickets are available from the box office on a first come first served basis. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

### Teen physicist has stars in his eyes

A TALENTED teenager has completed a free six-month course in physics and now hopes to be the first from his family to go to university.

Kristopher-Ryan Hinds, aged 17, a Year 12 student at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, received the free weekly tuition from entrepreneur Rob Laker, including how to use a high-specification telescope, through education charity The Access Project.

Mr Laker founded his data consultancy GEL Data Solutions in 2007 after studying astrophysics at University London.

### Canal trust holds real ale festival

MORE than 40 beers will feature at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's third annual real ale festival this month.

It will be held at the trust's site off Birmingham New Road from June 23-26, from 5-11pm Thursday, 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 3pm on Sunday. Entry free for trust members and Campaign for Real Ale members.

For non-members entry is £2.50. A free entry fair tomorrow (Friday) to find more trust volunteers.

### Extra patrols to deal with off-road bikers

POLICE are stepping up patrols following reports of off-road bikers causing a nuisance in Dudley.

Complaints have been made about youths riding the bikes on roads and grassland on the Russells Hall estate.

Police said officers would be sent out to try to tackle the problem.

Anyone caught causing a nuisance has been warned their bikes could be seized and that they could end up in court if riding without a licence or insurance.

### Car wash bid lodged

A CAR wash could be opened beside a road in Halesowen.

The facility would be built next to Teamworks Karting, off Dudley Road, if plans are approved.

It would be on an existing yard area which is paved, according to proposals submitted by Michael Chapman.

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OUR changing language. Some gay activists involved in this month's Pride march in London are opposed to contingents from the armed forces taking part on the grounds that it appears to support the military and arms industry. Or as Symon Hill, coordinator of the pacifist Peace Pledge Union, puts it: "I urge the organisers of Pride to wake up and realise that they are helping the armed forces and BAE Systems to pinkwash their image." Pinkwash. I love it.

ONLY an old harrumph would point out that, if our armed forces hadn't won the Second World War, Britain today would be part of the Reich and the only march for gays would be the one leading to the gas chambers.

WHICH leads on to the following pertinent quote. It has been variously attributed to Kipling, Churchill and George Orwell and the words are sometimes slightly changed.

But it bears repeating and you'll get the gist of it: "People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." You may not approve of militarism. You may be offended by the sight of soldiers marching. But never kid yourself that you would enjoy the life and liberties you have today without those rough men.

SINCLAIR McKay, author of a new book on the wartime codebreakers at Bletchley Park, claims that some locals, perplexed by the oddballs working at Bletchley, came to the conclusion that the place was a government-run psychiatric hospital. I can believe that. It was my privilege on two occasions to interview Professor Harry Hinsley, one of the most remarkable Brits of the 20th century. The son of a Walsall coal merchant, he went to Cambridge and led Bletchley's team who broke German naval codes. Hinsley recalled one expert whose daily routine was to take his after-dinner tea each evening while strolling by the park's lake. When he finished his tea, he would toss the cup and saucer into the lake. Some were merely eccentric but he was literally crack-pot.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday 7th July 2016

Venue: Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3DH

Time: 5.30pm-6.30pm

At the event, Dudley CCG's Annual Report for the year 2015/16 will be available, and there will be a series of short presentations including a focus on developments during the year, a financial review and an overview of current and future challenges and opportunities.

Refreshments will also be provided from 5.00pm onwards so booking is essential!

Please confirm your attendance by Monday 4th July 2016 to Lindsey Harding by emailing [lindsey.harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk](mailto:lindsey.harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk) or calling 01384 321677. If you would like to present any questions to our Board, please submit them to Lindsey in advance.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Thinking Differently*

# Daughter of football legend criticises the FA

THE daughter of Albion legend Jeff Astle says the way the Football Association has dragged their heels over research into head injuries is 'inexcusable'.

Nearly two years after Dawn Astle met FA representatives, the 48-year-old who lost her father to the consequences of heading footballs was this week due to meet Dr Charlotte Chaury, the FA's new head of performance medicine.

By Matt Wilson

it emerged that four of the eight surviving players of England's 1966 World Cup winning team are suffering memory problems.

The family have been campaigning for research into head injuries in football since Jeff Astle's death was judged to be as a result of heading heavy footballs.

"I know the guidelines have been put in for head injuries but that's not what this is about, it's about long-term research," she said.

"Dad's inquest was 14 years ago, the coroner said his job had killed him, we didn't say it. Fourteen years, and none of those questions have been answered, it's shocking."

A spokesperson for the FA highlighted their guidelines for head injuries released in November 2015. The spokesperson explained the decision to defer to Fifa by saying: "If the FA acts alone the findings are less powerful and more likely to result in vague conclusions."

### Indefensible

"We're nearly two years from from meeting the FA in August 2014, and we're no further on in regards to the research," said Ms Astle. "I thought that was inexcusable and indefensible. The lack of respect that showed to all those players and families who have watched their loved ones stripped of all human nature was beyond words. I'm very frustrated, very tired, and sick of these empty gestures and excuses."

FA chairman Greg Dyke responded to Ms Astle this year with an apology after

## Noah's backing Big Bandage



Three-year-old Noah Dixey is helping the children's hospital

A BRAVE young patient got all wrapped up and launched Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity's fourth annual summer fundraiser - The Big Bandage.

Three-year-old Noah Dixey, who has a condition called Alagille Syndrome - a rare genetic disorder that affects his liver, heart, kidneys and skin - dressed up in bandages to encourage others to join in on Friday, July 8 and make a donation.

Following his diagnosis at six-months-old, Noah has had five operations. He has to visit the children's hospital every six weeks and takes 16 different types of medication daily.

Supporters can choose which ward, service or department their money goes to, meaning they'll be helping to shape the future of Birmingham Children's Hospital and make a real difference.

Noah's mother Gemma said: "As a family, we're delighted to be able to give something back and we know first-hand exactly how life-changing fundraising can be."

To get involved, visit [www.bch.org.uk/bigbandage](http://www.bch.org.uk/bigbandage) or text BANDAGE to 70099 to donate £2.

Congestion costs £2bn a year in West Mids

CONGESTION costs the West Midlands £2 billion a year, a new report has claimed.

More delivery vans on the road because of online shopping and Uber cabs have been blamed for exacerbating the problem by the Greener Journeys report.

Centro is set to spend £150 million on buses in the region over the next five years providing cleaner buses, smartcard tickets and road changes to speed up journeys and make buses more reliable.

But transport chiefs have warned congestion is hitting the bus sector hard with average speed in the busiest cities dropping to less than 10mph.

Councillor John McNicholas, chairman of the Integrated Transport Authority's Transport Delivery Committee, which oversees Centro, said: "Congestion stifles economic growth, pollutes our air and generally lowers the quality of life for the people of the West Midlands.

"That's why we are working hard to deliver an attractive and fully integrated transport network that makes it easier than ever for people to leave their cars at home and travel in a greener way."

Claire Haigh, chief executive of Greener Journeys, added: "A fully-loaded double decker bus can take 75 cars off the road."

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# Capital! At last I am classed as a VIP

IT'S a funny old world. Every week I write a few words here, in the hope it will amuse and entertain some of you, or maybe make you think.

Of course, I know, it won't actually change anything, and certainly not influence your opinion on any subject.

Or at least I hope it won't, I would really hate that. Because while I might like airing my opinions, I really know that it matters very little what I think about these things. I am really not important.

Which is strange, because I recently returned from holiday to receive a glossy card telling me that is exactly what I am. Important that is.

The card was sent to me by a well-known local car dealer, informing me that I had been invited to its "forthcoming VIP Showroom Event" – as opposed to a "previous VIP Showroom Event", which would presumably have involved some kind of time-travel.

And why do the words "showroom" and "event" need capital letters?

It is the bane of our trade how some people think that a few strategically but incorrectly placed block letters can somehow make something seem more important.

It doesn't. It just makes the writer look illiterate.

Anyway, if I telephone the showroom's VIP booking desk, yes, they've got one of those as well, I will get a VIP pass which will allow me into the VIP Showroom Event. According to the literature, "this will be no ordinary event", and VIP passes are strictly limited.

And what exactly does it involve? Well having read the card in great detail, I have come to the conclusion that if I decide to take up the offer, I will get the opportunity to buy a car.

Never felt so important in my life.



MIND you, it's a strange world, selling cars. I remember test driving a car back in 2003, going away to think about it and returning a short while later to do the deal. Straight away, I was offered another test drive, and despite my protestations that this was not necessary, I was handed the keys and ushered into the driver's seat.

It was only when I was invited into the back office to sort on the minutiae that I spotted the whiteboard detailing the big fat commission they got for every test drive.



THERE has been a lot of bad press about the mindless violence, nudity and general debauchery in the BBC's new costume drama Versailles. And I am horrified. I only went and missed it, didn't I?



Muhammad Ali seen during his visit to the West Midlands



Ali, in Dudley, with Buyrite Autoparts boss Terry Carvin, left



Boxing promoter, Ron Gray, from Cannock with Ali in the 1970s

# Special times spent with 'the Greatest'

**CARL JACKSON** talks to West Midlanders lucky enough to have met Muhammad Ali and hear how he affected their lives

**HE HAILED HIMSELF AS 'THE GREATEST' WHO 'SHOOK UP THE WORLD'. AND THOSE FROM THE WEST MIDLANDS WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET MUHAMMAD ALI THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKABLE LIFE HAVE ENDORSED THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE GREAT MAN, WHO DIED LAST FRIDAY.**

Boxing promoter Ron Gray, from Cannock, got closer than most. In his own fighting days he featured on the undercard on both occasions Ali fought Henry Cooper – at Wembley in 1963 and in 1966 at Highbury.

He also met him numerous times afterwards throughout his promoting career.

## Loveable

Mr Gray said: "When you ask people who the two most popular names are in the whole world they say Muhammad Ali and Nelson Mandela. They are both mentioned in the same breath.

"I met him on several occasions. He was just a lovely, lovely man. Absolutely different to the way he was when he came out with his outbursts. He was a quiet person actually but so loveable with the press. You would ask him a question and get a half-an-hour answer. He was absolutely brilliant and marvellous for boxing. It is a terrible shame."

And yet Ron's late brother Billy got to share a ring with the man who floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. In 1966 he was drafted in to spar with Ali as he prepared to fight Brian London.

Paying tribute to his sibling after he lost his battle to cancer last year, Ron said at the time: "There seemed to be a link between our family and Ali. He's competed over here three times and I boxed on two of those bills, while Billy



Cassius Clay, sparring with Walsall's Billy Gray in 1966 before he fought Brian London

sparred with him for his fight on the other.

"He got the call to go down to the Thomas A Becket gym in London and spend two days with Ali, before he fought Brian London. The strange thing was I spent a month up in Blackpool sparring with Brian at the time. I joked with Billy that I was softening him up for Ali."

In 1979 Ali made his first visit to the Midlands. During which time he was presented a commemorative belt in Birmingham, which was later bought by advertising guru Trevor Beattie, once of Wolverhampton.

But photobombing the handover was none other than Sir Lenny Henry who paid tribute to Ali calling him a 'titans' of boxing.

Tony Wilson, 55 and from Wolverhampton, was another to meet the man formerly known as Cassius Clay when he came to England.

Ali returned in 1983 stopping by at Wolverhampton's The Sheraton on Raglan Street

among other fan-packed destinations in Birmingham, Dudley and Coventry.

Mr Wilson, who was an amateur boxing champion at the time and now teaches at Arena Gym in Willenhall, said: "I was very sad to hear he passed away. I met him in Handsworth. He stopped and asked who we were and started shadow boxing with us in the street. It was one of the highlights of my life. I went to bed that night and couldn't stop dreaming about it. He was very humble for what he achieved. If I can get a fighter with just a quarter of his skill I would consider myself blessed."

Businessman Terry Carvin was able to get Ali to open his new firm Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley during the 1983 visit.

Having met the boxer in America he agreed to pay him £3,000 to cut the ribbon at the unveiling while more than 2,000 screaming fans

packed Hall Street outside. The 69-year-old from Kingswinford, said: "You could see the early signs of his problems were there. I could see that. But he was still all there and mess around sparring with people doing that sort of thing. He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. A gypsy came in and forecast he was going to be shot. We've got a video of him saying 'they tried to get me but nobody's got me yet'."

Former boxer, Scott Murray, owner of Bar Sporn in Cannock, has hosted some of boxing's biggest ever names for after-dinner speeches at the venue's Premier Suite lounge including the likes of Sugar Ray Leonard and Evander Holyfield.

While Ali has never been there himself four of his opponents Henry Cooper, Earnie Shavers, George Chuvalo and Ken Norton are among a stellar list to have entertained audiences in Cannock.

Mr Murray said: "They were all in awe of him. He was just an inspiring character. All the guys we have hosted who met him have said the same. A lot of them said he's the reason they took up boxing. He was Sugar Ray Leonard's hero. It's tremendous the amount of influence he has. I never met him. I do have a load of his memorabilia though. It is very sad. He was the greatest boxer that ever lived I don't think we'll see anyone greater."

Ali, who was world heavyweight champion a record three times, was equally if not more famous for his charm, wit, charisma, outrageous rhymes and outspoken views in projecting the Nation of Islam's ideology.

But his speed and flare in the ring defying the traditional attributes of a typical heavyweight inspired generations of boxers, including those born well after he had hung up his gloves only to commence one of his biggest and most enduring battles – with Parkinson's disease.

Tanny Khan, manager at Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton, said he still uses videos of Ali to train upcoming fighters.

He said: "We have got pictures of him all over the place. Whenever we go on trips we have his DVDs on and just go through with the boxers how he used to fight. He was a big inspiration.. There will never be another Muhammad Ali."

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# The way EU works is not democratic

WITH reference to the so-called Brexit debate I believe we are being subjected to a climate of fear and foreboding, mostly based on the fear of the unknown.

Financial predictions are based on anything but fact and embraced by so-called experts who struggle to produce accurate forecasts month on month.

They speak all to freely about the catastrophic effect that leaving the EU could have on Britain's trade, but seem to make no reference to the economic consequences of tit-for-tat tariffs/sanctions being imposed on goods destined

## Will crime boss keep promises?

DAVID Jamieson needs to be congratulated on winning a second term of office as the Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands'. So we will wait with bated breath to see if his pre-elections promises materialise.

If you remember, Mr Jamieson promised to increase police recruitment from 450 to 1,000 by 2017 (next year) along with all the latest IT equipment.

This pledge was made despite the austerity cuts that have been going on in the police forces up and down the country. These have led to 7,000 police being made redundant along with 5,000 PCSOs.

This is the Police & Crime Commissioner who agreed to close all of the police stations in the Midlands – and some have now closed with others to shut in the near future.

So Mr Jamieson, we are waiting for your promises.

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# Spray paint park warnings over menace of dog mess

A NEW scheme aimed at tackling dog fouling has been launched across Dudley following a successful pilot scheme at parks in Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Dudley Council will be spray painting warning messages in parks with the biggest problems with dog mess.

The council has launched an initiative which will see messages stencilled with non-permanent paint on paths telling people to pick up after their pets. The type of paint used will wash away over time.

The scheme will target parks and open spaces in a bid to encourage more people to clean up after their pooches.

Dog fouling can lead to fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts.

Parks in Wall Heath and Kingswinford parks have been used to pilot the scheme and more sites are due to be added to the programme to target dog fouling hot spots.

The sign sees the image of a dog with a lead, along with the caption 'Clean It Up!'

Environment services boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people clean up after their pets. People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs. We would rather people cleaned up after their dogs than us having to prosecute them."

"The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements. They are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

Councillor Patrick Harley, Leader of the Dudley Conservative Group, said: "I am supportive of the scheme but we need to make sure we place the signs in the right area."

Dog fouling can be reported to Dudley Council by calling 0300 5552345 or email dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

Mr Mooney, who has lived in the

## Gold medal triumph at Chelsea show

NURSERY owner John Massey struck gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

It is the first time the hepaticas have been shown as a single exhibit at the famous show. The spring-flowering plants were grown by Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford.

The 67-year-old nursery owner, who has more than 50 RHS gold medals to his name, said: "I've always dreamed of exhibiting hepaticas at Chelsea. I really wanted to show everyone the charm, beauty and diversity of their flowers and foliage."

Ashwood Nurseries general manager Karina Gilbert said: "Hardly anyone grows hepaticas anymore because to takes three years for them to flower. When John said he was going to grow them, we all looked at each other and thought 'no way.' For Chelsea, John held them back in a freezer and then brought them out for a while and then put them back in cold storage. It's been a real experiment but one that's paid off."

## Two-year wait for eyesore wall repair



Robert Mooney's garden backs onto a wall that fell into Stacey Close around two years ago and remains as rubble awaiting to get quotes for the cost of it to be repaired.

A 12ft wall that collapsed two years ago has still not been rebuilt by council bosses – with it remaining an eyesore pile of bricks and rubble.

The ruined wall which backs onto Robert Mooney's garden in Clyde Street, Old Hill, fell into Stacey Close in June 2014.

Orange barriers have remained in place since the collapse but Mr Mooney claims that, despite several visits from council officers, still nothing has been done.

Mr Mooney, who has lived in the

street for 15 years, said it had become a 'hazard' and that he and neighbours wanted it cleaned up.

The council says the situation is complicated by land ownership issues.

Mr Mooney, 53, said: "It collapsed into the garden of the first house in Stacey Close and the rest looks like it is about to fall at anytime."

### Quotes

"Council officers came out on several occasions and said it was structurally unsafe, then they are always

doing what we can to sort it out."

**Appeal to raise funds goal for Edwards plaque**

A FUNDRAISING drive has been launched to secure a blue plaque honouring Dudley football icon Duncan Edwards.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Councillor Dave Tyler are leading the campaign to have the plaque unveiled in memory of the Manchester United legend. Almost £600 has been raised towards the £2,000 target.

The campaigners are now calling on people to help boost the total to ensure the plaque can be installed in the Priory Park where 'Busby Babe' Edwards, who died following the Munich Air Disaster in 1958, honed his skills as a boy.

They are hopeful people from Dudley, Manchester United supporters and football fans in general will get behind the bid.

It is hoped the plaque will ready in time to be unveiled in October to coincide with what would have been the England star's 80th birthday.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "Like anyone else from Dudley, I grew up with the name Duncan Edwards ringing in my ears."

"He's a football legend so I'm working with Councillor Dave Tyler to get the blue plaque he deserves."

Donations to support the blue plaque appeal can be made at [www.duncanedwardsplaque-labourlp54.nationbuilder.com](http://www.duncanedwardsplaque-labourlp54.nationbuilder.com).

## Photo firm focus on centre for 52nd shop

PHOTOGRAPHY specialist Jessops has opened its 52nd shop.

New Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, cut the ribbon to unveil the store store at intu Merry Hill.

Boss Neil Old said: "Our 12-strong intu Merry Hill team has been trained to the highest standard. When it comes to photography, we are confident that there is no other retailer that can offer our level of service."

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## Campaign won on double yellow lines



Church Street in Halesowen where councillors have agreed to paint double yellow lines

DOUBLE yellow lines will be introduced in an accident-plagued road in Halesowen following a long campaign.

Council bosses have agreed to carry out the safety measure in Church Street after calls for action by concerned residents.

Several smashes and claims of speeding in the road, which is partially one way, had left people 'living in fear'. This is made worse by a tight junction leading into Nimmings Road, according to Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

Dudley traffic officers were called to the spot in March but insisted that

action could not be taken for at least a year due to the junction only scoring 22 points on its danger rating system. The criteria is 25,

But following a residents' petition, officers have now agreed to put double yellow lines on the road over the next couple of years. The scheme has been added to the work due to be carried out from next April.

Councillor Shakespeare, who represents Halesowen North, said it was a relief that action would be taken.

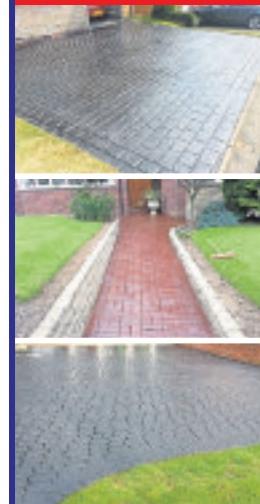
It means that with the petition and the fact we didn't give up we will get what we want in 2017/18," she said,

She added: "Church Street has been subject to speeding cars and several cars being smashed into. It has left people fearing for their safety, especially if they have children or are elderly.

"The road is narrow and tight and the one end has a one-way system from Long Lane and the other is two-way from Nimmings Road and that is where we have been pushing for the double yellow lines."

A one-way system was installed on Church Street in 2010. At the same time, the adjacent Green Lane has had thousands spent on safety measures.

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**storm**



# Goose lets loose with flying practise



A goose teaching its gosling how to use its wings in Sandwell.

Picture by Steven Kendrick, from Walsall

IT was all about winging it as this little chap was taught how to take his first flight into the big-wide-world.

This cute snap taken by a Walsall photographer shows a goose teaching a gosling how to take the first leap of faith and fly. Steven Kendrick managed to capture the special moment beside the lake as the yellow-feathered baby bird

was eager to take part in practice. It follows as the culling of geese in Sandwell was forced to stop following a campaign that saw a 4,000-name petition handed into the council in February. A total of 220 Canada geese were said to have been culled over the past two years in Tipton's Victoria Park and Dartmouth Park, in West Bromwich.

## Lending surge helps firm

**SURGING** home loan figures have helped push up profits in a strong year for the Black Country's biggest building society.

It also ended with the West Brom moving into its new home in West Bromwich.

The firm saw pre-tax profits rise by more than £1 million, up nine

per cent to £13m in the year to the end of March.

It was boosted by gross home mortgage lending, at £673 million, up by 51 per cent on the previous year.

But chief executive Jonathan Westhoff made it clear the society was still keeping a tight grip on lending, ensuring that borrowers – particularly first time buyers – can keep up the payments. "As we have seen historically, it is no benefit to anybody to end

up with a mortgage they may struggle to afford," he said. The society's approach, part of its 'back to basics' strategy, meant virtually none of its new borrowers in the last few years had struggled to meet their payments, said Mr Westhoff.

Meanwhile, the society has continued to strengthen its core finances and, despite continuing historic lows for interest rates, savings balances grew by 10 per cent to £4.4bn.

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Red Lion Street in the 1950s, where Geoff stayed at weekends with his grandparents, which is just around the corner from the Odeon and Beatties



The police and fire station in Red Lion Street in January, 1956, as mentioned by Geoff in his recollections



Geoff Leo is second from the left and in the woolly hat in this picture from about 1957. On the left is Sally Edes, and next to Geoff is John Hendley and then comes Tony Perry

# Magical memories of an exciting childhood with an Italian flavour

ALTHOUGH small in numbers, the Italians of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham made a significant contribution to the region's social and economic life.

Their families arrived here from the late 19th century, when the economy in southern Italy collapsed and hundreds of thousands fled poverty.

Most of them headed for the USA, but a few came to Britain.

Prominent among those Italian Wulfrunians were the Marandolas and Leos, and Geoff Leo has written in with some of his memories of growing up in Wolverhampton.

"Dad worked in the ice cream, Percy Leo and Sons, still trading, in Thomas Street. He was the eldest son, William, or Bill to his wife, and Our Willie to his sisters. Percy was really Pasquale, a first generation immigrant from Italy who started the business before the Second World War from the front room of the family house in Graiseley

1946. Mum was only 18 and my big brother, Alan, was born the following year in Hurn Crag Road, Raydon.

Moving to Wolverhampton, dad got him a job at the Star Aluminium, where he worked happily till his retirement. The best of my weekend friends was Tony Perry, who lived next door.

Tony was a little older than me and an only child who has written extensively about our times together in his excellent historical work 'Of The River People'. I recall Saturday mornings best and our trips to the children's matinee clubs at the ABC or Odeon picture houses.

The Clifton, or "leapit", opposite the ABC didn't cater for us and the Gaumont by the library appeared too posh for us kids. Ninepence was the cost of an excellent morning's entertainment. There'd be a couple of Loony Toons cartoons, some Pearl & Dean commercials, then a cliff-hanger, maybe Flash Gordon or Zorro before the interval.

With the usherettes busy dealing with

queues of rowdy kids buying Kia Ora, Buttermilk or a Jubbly, some of the more unscrupulous of the children would let their mates in via the emergency exits. The manager then invited children onto stage if it was their birthday, or if they had created something at school. Once I won third place for a piece of embroidery (I had no shame). Only three had gone up on stage and my prize was a torch.

During the main film the manager's voice came over the speaker, "Will the boy who won the torch please stop shining it on the screen!" The main event could be swashbuckling pirates, gun-toting cowboys, whooping Indians or ray gun-firing space-men.

We would leave the cinema galloping and tapping our bottoms and emitting all sorts of sounds to indicate galloping hooves, machine guns or skidding tyres, but would instantly have to quieten down to enter Beatties. James Beattie's Department Store was the shining light of Wolverhampton, and was wonderful.



The Odeon, Wolverhampton – one of Geoff's favourite cinemas, which is still standing in Skinner Street

## MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

Street. "Grandad Leo died just before I was born, the year of the Queen's accession, 1952, and the year dad and his brother bought their first ice cream van."

"Mum, Nan and Granddad, and Uncle Pat, whose family lived for a short while in the front room, were all from Raydon, Suffolk; a village outside the seaside town of Southwold."

"Dad was too young to serve when war broke out in 1939, but later joined the Army. His flat feet meant he was unable to march, so he was transferred from the infantry to the engineers and he became a specialist in bomb disposal. With the threat of invasion gone the British beaches which had been mined to defend against a German assault, now had to be cleared. Dad began in Norfolk, then commanded a party of Prisoners of War to do the job further south. He met my mum, Edna, and they married in

the front room of the family house in Graiseley

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## Parks to host band concerts

PEOPLE can enjoy the sounds of an uplifting summer concert in a Quarry Bank park later this month.

Stevens Park will welcome the West Midlands Concert Band to its bandstand on Sunday from 2.30 to 5pm as part of Dudley Council's annual programme of free band concerts, this year supported by the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

The West Midlands Concert Band is a volunteer community band, based in Wolverhampton. They will perform music that people will know and love from classic movies as well as marches and classical works. People are encouraged to bring along deckchairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy the afternoon.

Later in June, there will also be a band concert at Himley Hall and Park. BJ Concert Band will perform a foot-tapping ensemble of swing music, marches and music from film and stage on June 19 from 2.30 to 5pm.

## Statue is expected to fetch £8k at auction



The statue, likely to sell for more than £5,000 at auction

IT may only stand at 54 centimetres tall but a bronze statue dating back to the 1800s and going under the hammer at an auction in the Black Country has got quite a hefty price tag.

La Danse is a bronze study by the artist Jean Baptiste Carpeaux (1827-1875), a French sculptor and painter during the Second Empire under Napoleon III.

It was made for the facade sculpture on the Opera Garnier, Paris, signed and dated 1869.

The art work, which is 54cm tall, is up for auction with an anticipated price tag ranging from £5,000 to £8,000.

### Promises

It is being sold at Fieldings Auction House in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, on Saturday.

It follows the sale last month at the same auction house of another rare figure. Demetre Chiparus - 'Tender Promises' - a 1920s cold painted bronze, ivory figure of two kneeling harlequins. That figure sold for a whopping £20,500.

## Christina memorial rock fest cancelled

A MEMORIAL concert for a Halesowen schoolgirl killed in 2013 has been cancelled but organisers promise a bigger festival will be held in her memory next year.

The concert in memory of Christina Edkins was due to take place in Birmingham last weekend but will be held in Wolverhampton in October 2017.

Christina was stabbed by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham as she was on her way to Leasowes High School. He was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

Around 15 rock and metal bands from across the country were due to play at The Rainbow Venues in Digbeth but due to 'unforeseen circumstances' the event had to be cancelled. Organiser Dave Williamson said: "Next year will be a different story as Remembrance fest is being rebranded and made a whole lot bigger. It will be known as Semipartial Festival and will be held at Wolverhampton Civic."

# Charity climbers ready to again conquer Ben Nevis for charities

**A THIRD** annual climb of Ben Nevis has been launched to honour a Dudley peace campaigner and charity fundraiser while raising money for charity.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has assembled the biggest team yet for this year's climb in honour of Bert Bissell on August 11.

More than 20 charity fundraisers from Dudley will be led by Mr Austin to the top of Britain's highest mountain. They include the borough's new mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, deputy mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, councillors Keiran Casey and Steve Walther, Mr Bissell's lifelong friend Astley Blake and campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner.



The team on the summit of Ben Nevis last year

The trek follows a successful climb last August, which raised £9,000 for causes in Dudley.

All funds raised by this year's climb will go to the new mayor's charities, the Friends of Alfie Johnson, which helps children with disabilities, also the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living sup-

porting local people with disabilities and Diabetes UK.

Mr Austin said: "I'm delighted that the number of local people taking part in our climb and making a donation is growing every year.

"It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community. He was a great friend of my family and I remember him well. He was a legendary figure and an inspiration to so many of us."

"I've often thought we ought to do something in his memory and climbing the mountain he conquered so many times to raise money for local charities seems a fitting tribute.

"It's an honour to be joined by Dudley's new Mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, as well as a whole team of local councillors and fundraisers."

## Birthday boys on party list

TWO men from Sedgley are finalists for Britain's unsung heroes with a chance of winning a surprise Pop Up Party.

Jeff Worsey and Leonard Smith nominated by Jeff's daughter, Caroline, are two of the 25 finalists to be showcased across social media until the end of June in a bid to win a surprise Pop Up Party.

Caroline said: "They are celebrating their 90th and 70th birthdays in June this year. As they reach these big milestones it would be great to have a joint garden party like we did 10 years ago for their 80th and 60th birthdays."

The nationwide campaign by pork pie manufacturers Pork Farms gives recognition to everyday heroes in the community.

Last year, one of the five winners from across the UK who had a surprise party included nine-year-old charity fundraiser Louis Jonson from Tattenhall Wood.

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## Charity helping elderly needs volunteers

A CHARITY helping elderly people in Sandwell to feel less isolated and continue living in their own homes has launched an urgent appeal for volunteers to cope with growing demand.

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group scheme has supported more than 300 people across the borough since May. Volunteers visit elderly residents

helping with activities such as weekly shops and driving them to social functions or simply just have a chat over a cup of tea.

The Sandwell Community Offer scheme also assists people access services which can assist them to continue living independently such as community alarms. Word has contin-

ued to spread about the scheme resulting in a rise in the number of people being referred or recommended, which is putting a strain on the existing team of 41 volunteers.

The charity wants to support as many people as possible and is appealing for volunteers who can spare some time. Call 0121 565 5605.

# IRA pub bombings – new inquests to be held after 42 years

**RELATIVES** of the Birmingham Pub Bombings victims want the killers to 'come forward' after a coroner ruled there will be new inquests into the 21 deaths.

Senior coroner for Birmingham and Solihull Louise Hunt announced the decision after evidence emerged the police may have ignored tip-offs about the attacks on November 21, 1974.

During recent hearings, families of some of those killed in the blasts in the Mulberry Bush and Tavern In The Town pubs put forward a claim that the British state had knowledge of the attacks planned by the IRA before they were carried out.

The coroner found the families' claim that police had been protecting a mole in the terrorist cell was unfounded.

But setting out the reasons for her ruling, Ms Hunt said there was evidence that West Midlands Police had missed two potential warnings of the bomb attacks, including a comment made by men linked to the IRA that 'Birmingham would be hit next week'.

### Significant

That overheard conversation was reported to police on November 10, 1974, but Ms Hunt said there was "no indication that the police took any active steps in response to it".

On the day of the attack, a second tip-off to the police by a source identified in court only as "Witness B" was also not followed up, she added.

That person is believed to be the source of what the coroner described as "significant" new information.

Ms Hunt said: "I am unable to exclude the possibility that this was a second missed opportunity to prevent the attacks."

"I have serious concerns that advanced notice of the bombs may have been available to the police and that they failed to take the necessary steps to protect life."

The pub bombings, widely acknowledged to be the work of the Irish Republican Army, left 222 injured and led to one of Britain's worst miscarriages of justice in the convictions of the Birmingham Six.

Many relatives of the victims welcomed the decision on new inquests.

Asked what message she had for the IRA bombers, Julie Hambleton, whose 18-year-old sister was killed in the double bombings, said: "Do the right thing. If you have any level of humanity and any moral compass then by rights you should come forward."

## Trams back in city centre



Trams return to the streets of Birmingham city centre after 63 years

THE long-awaited Midland Metro scheme has finally hit the rails in Birmingham.

The Metro's city centre extension from Bull Street to Birmingham New Street and the Grand Central shopping centre began operating last week.

It sees trams running through the heart of the city centre for the first time since they were withdrawn in 1953.

Councillor Richard Worrall, Metro lead member for the ITA's transport delivery committee, which oversees Centro, said: "It's wonderful to see the Metro running

all the way between Wolverhampton and Birmingham New Street.

"It's obviously great news for Birmingham but also for the wider West Midlands. This extension is expected to create more than 1,300 sustainable new jobs and boost the regional economy by more than £50 million a year."

The extension to New Street is part of a £128 million project that has also seen the purchase of a new 21-strong fleet of Urbos 3 trams.

It will deliver more than three million people a year directly into the heart of Birmingham's main shopping district.

## Children can face long wait for help on mental health

## 250 mums-to-be turned away from the Manor

SOME youngsters in the West Midlands referred for mental health support waited 200 days to be seen, a new report reveals.

More than a quarter of children referred in England last year were sent away without help, including some who had attempted suicide, according to the review of mental health services by the Children's Commissioner. This found 14 per cent of youngsters with life-threatening conditions were not allowed specialist treatment. Even those who did secure treatment faced an average waiting time of more than 100 days.

Anne Longfield accused Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the NHS body responsible for young people's mental health services, of 'playing Russian roulette' with young lives. Average waiting times ranged from 14 days in a trust in north-west England to 200 days at one in the West Midlands.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who chairs the all-party group on mental health, said the problems have been 'building up in the system for many years' and called for a 'fundamental transformation' of services.

HUNDREDS of expectant mothers have been forced to change plans for their baby's birth, after being told they cannot be delivered at Walsall Manor Hospital.

A total of 250 mums-to-be from Sandwell will now give birth at services run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust.

It is the latest move by health bosses who are looking to relieve pressure at the over-burdened Manor which delivered around 4,900 babies last year.

It was subsequently branded 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission for a lack of capacity and un-

der-staffing in the maternity department.

An initial cap was introduced in March affecting around 500 women in Walsall and Cannock Chase, who were told to use Wolverhampton's New Cross instead of the Manor.

A fortnight later, the hospital's ruling bosses explained that that cap would be extended to mums-to-be in the Sandwell area, which has now been confirmed and implemented.

The latest change will impact on women registered at 11 GP practices following a quality risk assessment.

# Exhibition at church to crown Queen's birthday

AN MP will launch an exhibition chronicling key events in Sedgley and Dudley during the Queen's life-time.

The Sedgley E II R 90 exhibition is being staged at All Saints' Church Vicar Street, Sedgley, from tomorrow (Friday) until Sunday, featuring personal reminiscences and press cuttings.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin will open the event at 10am, which will kick off with singing by choirs from St Chad's, Cotwall End and Wood-setton Primary Schools.

On Saturday there will be organ recitals by Martin Platts, while Sedgley Morris Men will perform in the afternoon.

The exhibition covers the period of the Queen's life through the personal reminiscences of her subjects who live in Gornal and Sedgley –

events on the wider Dudley horizon are also captured. The starting point is more than 80 eye witness accounts of events during her reign – some are important events in individuals' lives, others are key events in the local community and nationally.

In addition the period from Her Majesty's birth in 1926 to her accession in 1952 is covered through research carried out through articles taken from the archives.

Children from Junior Church and Youth Group at All Saints' have prepared displays covering 2012 to the present.

Co-ordinator Martin Roberts said: "This projects stems from research begun four years ago where I asked people around Sedgley for their stories for 60 years of the Queen's reign. I was struck by the amount of brilliant stories people were offering."



Martin Jones promotes the exhibition at Sedgley All Saints Church which centres on the Queen's life

# Hospital dates are missed by thousands

MORE than 1,500 people a month have missed an appointment with Dudley's NHS Trust in the past year, new figures show.

Every time a patient fails to turn up to an appointment, it costs the hospital trust an average of around £70 and a total of 18,884 patients have missed outpatient appointments in the past 12 months.

Paula Clark, Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Dudley's Rusells Hall Hospital and the Guest Outpatient Centre as well as Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge, said: "When a patient doesn't attend an appointment on the day, it's too late to offer their slot to somebody else."

"If patients can't attend, it's really important that they let us know so we can reschedule for another time and offer the slot to somebody else who needs it."

## Specialities

"We are working hard with our patients to reduce the number of Did Not Attends and have introduced a text message service which reminds patients a few days before they are due for an appointment.

In a number of specialities we also use a booking system where patients choose an appointment time and date convenient for them to avoid the need to rearrange at a later date."

A total of 4,836 people missed two appointments over the past year – 188 more than the year before. However, there was a

slight decrease in people missing three appointments from 1,516 in 2014/15 to 1,511 last year.

Some 496 people missed five or more appointments over the past 12 months, up from 444 during 2014/15.

These figures come as it was revealed last September that patients failed to turn up to more than 14,000 appointments at Dudley's hospitals in just six months.

Costs include the staffing resource wasted and the cost of additional letters and time taken to reschedule missed slots.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2014, a total of 40,719 appointments were also missed.

The bill at Dudley Group comes as bosses work to balance the books in the wake of funding cuts.

Bosses have been reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

They have also been looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies to claw back costs.

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A NEW initiative will give carers of patients living with dementia and other long-term conditions the chance to visit loved ones in hospital at any time.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has launched the John's Campaign as part of its plans to make the hospital more dementia friendly.

The campaign was founded by Worcester-born author Nicci Gerrard, who was concerned by how restricted visiting times were when her father, Dr John Gerrard, spent time in hospital.

It was launched with the introduction of carers' passports, which gave designated access to wards at any time.

Dawn Wardell, chief nurse for trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "We have put many initiatives in place to support patients living with dementia. Supporting John's Campaign with carers' passports is another step to improving their experience in our care."

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# Enriching the lives of animals at zoo

THREE Dudley Zoo keepers have joined forces to establish a committee aimed at enriching the lives of animals.

Adam Wrench, Sian-Leigh Simmer and Jess Jones meet once a month to devise and construct enrichment activities for the creatures housed at the attraction.

Senior Keeper Adam said: "By setting up this committee we're aiming to provide more and varied enrichment for the animals, which we'll rate and review.

"We also want to create an informative portfolio, which will be particularly useful for junior members of staff who will be able to access the folder and see what we've done for certain species in the past and if it proved successful or not."

The committee, who will build the activities themselves, are also contacting companies who can help by donating such items as hessian sacks or hanging baskets.

The zoo has also updated its Amazon wish-list.

Adam said: "Since we launched the online wish-list we've received some great things. We've now updated the list and tailored it to items we'd like to use for certain enrichment activities for particular species."

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One of the bedrooms at The Bell at Bramshaw



The Bell: 'One of the cosiest spots in Hampshire'



A tempting selection of snacks at the bar

# Say hello to summer with a visit to theme park

AS the days get warmer, and with summer almost in our grasp, Staffordshire based Drayton Manor Theme Park is encouraging families and friends to have a fun filled day out.

The park's onsite 15-acre zoo is home to over 100 species from all around the world and will this year see the arrival of new African grey parrots and the Tamarin Trail, which will see guests walk through beautiful planted gardens and get up close and personal with the cute and inquisitive monkeys.

There will be eight new enclosures housing a variety of tamarins and marmosets. There are five species so far, including the white lipped tamarin, red handed tamarin, emperor tamarin, cotton top tamarin and the common marmoset.

The family owned and run attraction is also home to Europe's only Thomas Land™, which last year underwent a huge £2.5million expansion, and is now bigger and better than ever.

New attractions include Flynn the Fire Engine, who is equipped with on-board hoses so riders can help to put any fires out, and Captain's Sea Adventure, which introduces not one, but six rotating Captain lifeboat carriages, all complete with their own cannons to squirt water.

Visitors can also enjoy Toby's Tram Express and the new Sodor Airport Terminal which boasts a top level balcony for VIP 'travellers' with not-to-be-missed views of Thomas Land.

There's also lots for thrill seekers, as Drayton Manor features some of the biggest, wettest and scariest rides around!

These include the drop tower, Apocalypse, stand up coaster, Shockwave, and Maelstrom, the only gyro swing to make you face outwards. And not to mention Stormforce 10, the water ride which features a reverse chute drop.

Little ones can also head over to the 4D Cinema for an adventure with Yogi Bear, filled with special effects that give a memorable experience for all.

There's no denying that a day at Drayton Manor can be exhausting, so when visitors need to recharge their batteries they can head over to the Grill Inn, which is open daily and serves up some tasty dishes to satisfy hungry mouths.

Those looking to extend their visit can book an overnight stay at the 150 bedroom 4-star Drayton Manor Hotel, which features 15 Thomas & Friends™ themed rooms, executive rooms and presidential suites sure to give you a comfortable night's sleep.

Enjoy all the fun and comfort at a fraction of the cost by taking advantage of Drayton Manor's great Stay and Play deals available throughout the year. This includes a one-night stay at the Drayton Manor Hotel with a full English breakfast, free Wi-Fi and car parking on site, plus one ticket per person into Drayton Manor Theme Park.

Families can bunk down in a Thomas room Stay and Play Package in their very own Thomas themed bunk bed, each complete with its own television and Thomas & Friends DVD.

Character breakfasts are also available during selected dates, with a special visit from one of the Thomas Land characters.

Stay and Play packages can be booked online or by calling 01827 285551.

To book tickets, or for more information about the park, visit [www.draytonmanor.co.uk](http://www.draytonmanor.co.uk) or call 0844 472 1550.

Reduced prices are available for tickets bought in advance.

For regular updates and news about Drayton Manor Theme Park join it on Twitter [www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor](http://www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/Drayton-ManorPark](http://www.facebook.com/Drayton-ManorPark)

# One of England's most beautiful attractions

## HOLIDAYS

By Rebecca Woods

**A SHOW of hands went up around the huge breakfast table next us, where 30 golfers, all matching chinos and club-branded sweatshirts, were sitting.**

'That's it then. We're not playing,' said a presidential-looking fellow, laying his colossal umbrella alongside his chair.

The vote was 21 to 9: the rain was hammering down and the majority did not want to play. Instead, half of them made a return visit to the breakfast buffet and the rest found some comfy sofas and Sunday newspapers and didn't budge all morning. They looked secretly pleased the weather had turned for the worse.

We were at The Bell at Bramshaw, a cosy historic hotel in the New Forest which dates back to 1752. We'd headed South for an outdoorsy weekend – our first with a new baby in tow – and hadn't banked on that morning's deluge.

But as luck would have it, The Bell happens to be one of the cosiest spots in Hampshire, so for several hours that Sunday, along with our golfing counterparts and a few friendly dogs – since they are welcomed inside too – we barely moved. It was just the rest we needed.

It had been about 25 years since I'd visited the New Forest, last going when I was 10 years old on a family holiday. I won't be leaving it as long next time. As soon as we came off the M27 and started driving along country roads, cutting through thick forests, the memories came flooding back and I was immediately reminded what a stunningly beautiful place it is.

Thousands of wild ponies roam free, and we encountered about 15 meandering along the road before arriving at our destination. The Bell is a great base from which to explore the area. It has 27 rooms, a large but cosy bar area with flagstone floors and

plush sofas and a highly-regarded restaurant. It's also home to Hampshire's oldest golf course.

Situated just off the motorway, it's only a two and a half hour drive from the West Midlands, and within easy reach of all the picture postcard towns and villages, seaside resorts and 200 square miles of forests and heathland.

We got a warm welcome from the moment we stepped through the door, and enjoyed a lunch of grilled chicken and bacon club sandwich and Lyburn cheddar cheese and tomato in the bar while sinking into a leather sofa.

The Bell has five different types of room to suit a range of budgets. We were lucky enough to be staying in a 'manor room', a large bedroom with an additional seating area, with large windows bathing the room in light and giving us views of the garden. It was the kind of room you don't want to leave, so we were almost glad when the rain gave us an excuse to stay inside and relax.

### Detour

When it did subside, we took a short drive to a couple of nearby towns and villages. Brockenhurst is 10 minutes down the road and a beautiful village with ponies and donkeys roaming the high street. As well as some great little independent shops, it has plenty of cosy cafes and welcoming pubs.

And it's also home to the famous 'water splash', a ford where dozens of animals often stop to take a drink, and the young villagers come out to play in during hot spells.

A bit further away is Lyndhurst, the largest of the New Forest villages. It has a plethora of independent shops to mooch around and plenty of cafes, pubs and restaurants to while away an afternoon in. The New Forest Visitor Centre is based there, which tells you all you need to know about the history of the area and has guides to discover every inch of it.

We drove to Blackwater Arboretum and headed off into the forest, our son strapped to my husband's chest. The sunlight shone through the colossal trees, and because of



Ponies roam in the streets of New Forest villages

its vastness, it felt like we were the only ones for miles around. On the way back we took a detour through some heathland and enjoyed some of the most beautiful views England surely has to offer. Watching the glow of sunset while surrounded by hundreds of acres of heather, ponies quietly roaming around us, is an experience I will never forget.

We learned that travelling with a four-month old puts paid to the holiday nightife we were once used to, but we were looking forward to a night in at The Bell.

It's renowned for its good food, and we enjoyed a fabulous three-course meal – all while the boy slept in his pram next to our table. We will be eternally grateful to the

couple next to us who gave us sympathetic smiles as he wailed himself to sleep for 10 minute. 'Don't worry, we went through all that about 20 years ago,' the gentleman reassured us.

When he finally dropped off, we celebrated with a bottle of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc and a delicious meal.

The sun came out the next day, so we drove to the pretty Georgian market town of Lymington on the coast and enjoyed an ice-cream while sitting on the marina watching the world go by.

The New Forest is one of England's most beautiful tourist attractions and The Bell is the perfect place from which to explore it – whatever the weather.

Over the last 15 years they have been working with the Weston Park Foundation on a 25-year project to restore the park and pleasure grounds. The talk considers how the estate has in response to the fortunes and fashions of successive owners with particular focus on Brown in this anniversary year.

Tickets for the Birmingham Conservatoire are £15 per person including wine and canapes in the interval. The talks cost £5, including tea or coffee on arrival at 10.30am in the Granary Art Gallery and complimentary access to the house, park and gardens. To book for any of these events please contact Suzanne Parkin on 01952 852130 or e-mail [Suzanne@weston-park.com](mailto:Suzanne@weston-park.com). For further information please visit [weston-park.com](http://weston-park.com)

## Stately home pays homage to Capability Brown



Weston Park

**AS Capability Brown's tercentenary gathers further momentum, Weston Park, the stately home near Shifnal, is looking forward to three events this week which consider Britain's greatest landscape gardener's legacy in its widest sense with a musical concert and two talks.**

The renowned Birmingham Conservatoire will perform a selection of works from scores owned by Sir Henry Bridgeman, Brown's patron at Weston Park on Sunday (12) at 6pm.

Both Sir Henry and his daughter

Charlotte were keen musicians whose rich selection of sheet music remains at Weston Park where it has been studied and written about by Martin Perkins of Birmingham Conservatoire.

Two talks are planned to put Brown's work at Weston into context. The first of these was taking place this morning (9) when Mike Glanson, the Curator from Walsall's Leather Museum presented: Walsall: Town of a Hundred Trades.

Then, on Thursday (16) Weston will welcome Patrick James and Eleanor Houldcroft of the Landscape Agency together with Andrew Bowman-Shaw from the Tree and Woodland Company to tell visitors about the work they have undertaken to manage Capability Brown's legacy at Weston.

Families can bunk down in a Thomas room Stay and Play Package in their very own Thomas themed bunk bed, each complete with its own television and Thomas & Friends DVD.

Character breakfasts are also available during selected dates, with a special visit from one of the Thomas Land characters.

Stay and Play packages can be booked online or by calling 01827 285551.

To book tickets, or for more information about the park, visit [www.weston-park.com](http://www.weston-park.com) or call 0844 472 1550.

Reduced prices are available for tickets bought in advance.

For regular updates and news about Drayton Manor Theme Park join it on Twitter [www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor](http://www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/Drayton-ManorPark](http://www.facebook.com/Drayton-ManorPark)

# fast theticket

## Breath of fresh Eyre

Belle of the ballet  
Page 19



**NATIVE MONSTER**  
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### Grumpy girls

Party time – Page 19

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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# Nagging masterclass from grumpy women



Grumpy Old Women Kate Robbins, Jenny Eclair and Susie Blake return for 50 Shades of Beige in Birmingham

**THE Grumpy Old Women** are back – and aim to knock some sense into the nation.

Returning after a critically acclaimed, sell-out spring 2015 tour, the trio return to the Second City for their 50 Shades of Beige show.

Perrier Award-winning comedian, writer and original Grumpy Old Women star Jenny Eclair will be joined by fellow recruits Susie Blake,

a co-star of Victoria Wood and star of Mrs Brown's Boys and Coronation Street and actress and singer Kate Robbins, of Where The Heart Is and Casualty fame, mother to actress Emily Atack.

This show, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Friday (June 10) is the fourth leg of the current tour. The grumpy trio will educate the audience on the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a

free nagging master class, beards for women, a complimentary anger management workshop, the rules of middle-aged drinking, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia v retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and even a brief Zumba demonstration. All this and more!

The show starts at 8pm with tickets at £29.15 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Call 0871 246 5898 or 0844 871 7660.

## Eyre we go with romantic ballet

JOIN one of literature's most iconic heroines on a journey of courage, romance and tragedy with the World Première tour of Northern Ballet's Jane Eyre.

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë and performed during the 200th anniversary of her birth, the acclaimed Leeds-based company will bring this beautiful gothic love story to life at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tomorrow evening (Friday) and on Saturday.

Jane Eyre is choreographed by British dance-maker Cathy Marston. For this new production, she has brought on-board composer Philip Feeney to compile and arrange a score for Jane Eyre.

It tells of how cruelly-treated orphan Jane grows into a responsible governess, whose world is shaken by her brooding and passionate employer Mr Rochester and how their romance is overshadowed by a dark secret.

Cathy Marston said: "Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time and when I think of Jane I feel inspired by images of her passionate but 'impossible' relationship with Mr Rochester."

The company also perform Tortoise & The Hare, a 40-minute ballet for children from choreographer Dreda Blow, at the Grand on Saturday morning and again in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Royal Ballet continue the Shakespeare commemoration with choreographer John Cranko's version of The Taming of the Shrew, a sparkling battle of the sexes comedy, performed at the Birmingham Hippodrome from June 16-18.

BRB's Shakespeare theme continues from June 22-25 with a triple bill inspired by the Bard.

These include José Limón's The Moor's Pavane, based on Othello; David Bintley's The Shakespeare Suite set to a swinging Duke Ellington score; and a new work by Jessica Lang based on the Sonnets.

**"Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time"**

### Lera lends hand at Ben Folds concert

NASHVILLE-BASED singer/songwriter Lera Lynn, a star of True Detective, supports Ben Folds on his latest tour, which hits the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, next week.

Folds a multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter, returns to the UK with yMusic following the release of his critically acclaimed album So There. Eight new chamber rock songs recorded with yMusic have also been released.

Ben and yMusic also paired up for a sold-out performance at the Royal Opera House in August.

Start time is 7.30pm next Monday, June 13. Tickets are £39. Book at [www.thesh.co.uk](http://www.thesh.co.uk)

### S Club Paul does Time Warp again

FORMER S Club member Paul Cattermole, comedian Norman Pace and one-time X Factor contestant Diana Vickers are among the cast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week.

Liam Tamne also features in Richard O'Brien's classic musical, which features the timeless tunes of Sweet Transvestite, Dame I Janet, and the pelvic-thrusting Time Warp.

It runs at the Lichfield Street

### Fotheringay folk in live music return

FOLK legends Fotheringay return with a new set of five dates and will perform in Bilston later this month.

Original members Jerry Donahue, Gerry Conway, and Pat Donaldson will be joined by special guests Katherine Roberts, Sally Barker and PJ Wright – respectfully filling the shoes of Sandy Denny and Trevor Lucas – for the gig at the Robin 2, in Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, June 28.

The tour follows the release of a four-disc box set.

Tickets for the Robin date are £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or visit [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk)

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## CHOICE



Angel and Dick

## Escape to the Chateau

(Channel 4, 7pm)

Dick and Angel decide they will live as self-sufficiently as they can while restoring the chateau, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs for breakfast every morning. However, they still have countless problems to deal with, and have only £20,000 left to spend on the project. The chateau is still without either heating or water, while the 59 windows are crumbling. While Dick's renovations fall behind schedule, Angel is in her element coming up with ideas for what the finished building will look like.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.25** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Songs of Praise. **1.15** The Queen's Diamond Jubilee: The Patron's Lunch. **4.15** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Poland v Northern Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C, as the teams face each other at the Stade de Nice.
- 7.10** BBC News.
- 7.25** Regional Programme.
- 7.35** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Germany v Ukraine (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C for both teams, which takes place at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille. This will be just the sixth overall meeting between these nations, and the first at a major tournament, and the Ukrainians will be chasing their maiden victory over the reigning world champions. Following their triumph in Brazil, Joachim Loew's men got off to a rocky start in the qualifying campaign, but eventually went on to top a group that also contained Republic of Ireland and Scotland, and they will be considered among the favourites to win the trophy in France. It's clear if it's the fourth time. Their opponents are appearing at a European Championships for just the second time, with the first coming four years ago when they served as co-hosts alongside Poland, although it is worth noting that they have only been eligible as a nation since 1996, having formerly been a part of the Soviet Union. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy, and analysis by Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer.
- 10.05** BBC News.
- 10.25** Regional Programme.
- 10.35** Regional Programme.
- 11.15** Live at the Apollo. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and Danny Bhoy. (R)
- 12.00** Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) A cocky teenage boy falls for a minister's sensible daughter while tutoring younger students as part of his community service. Romantic drama, starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

- 6.30** This Farming Life. **(R) 7.30** Gardeners' World. **(R) 8.00** Countryfile. **(R) 9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. **(R) 11.30** Tom Parker Bowles' Proper Pub Food. **(R) 12.00** Escape to the Country. **(R) 12.45** Live Triathlon: The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds.
- 6.00** The Queen's 90th Birthday. Highlights from the weekend's events, which started on Friday with a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral and included the Trooping the Colour ceremony and a Patron's Lunch at St James's Park.
- 7.00** Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. The duo travel through Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, paying their respects to Mayan deity Maximón and scaling the active volcano Pacaya along the way. (R)
- 8.00** Top Gear. Chris Evans and Sabine Schmitz test drive the new Audi R8. Matt LeBlanc takes a tour of London, and boxer Anthony Joshua and comedian Kevin Hart are the stars in a Rally Cross Car.
- 9.00** City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time.
- 10.00** Mock the Week. Guests Gary Delaney, Ed Gamble, Nish Kumar, Tiff Stevenson and Josh Widdicombe join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R)
- 10.35** Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane is joined by internet celebrity Mazzi Maz, and together they are pursued across Poland by guard dogs, with only their phones to help them avoid capture.
- 11.20** Flat TV. The flatmates are locked out, but while Tom wants to get back in, Naz sees an opportunity to be free of his friend's domestic tyranny.
- 11.45** The Millionaire's Holiday Club. Inside the world of high-end luxury holidays, tailored for some of the UK's wealthiest jet-setters, from a £40,000 a week trip to Seychelles to a night in Mustique for £20,000. (R)
- 12.45** Euro 2016 Match Replay. **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. **(R) 3.25** Holby City. **(R) 4.25** Life in Debt Valley. **(R) 5.20** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

- 6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!
- 6.20** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.30** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.45** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R) 7.00** Sooey. **(R) 7.15** Super 4. **(R) 7.30** Nerds & Monsters. **(R) 7.45** The Big & Small Show. **(R) 8.00** Teletubbies. **(R) 8.25** CBeebies News. **(R) 8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. **(R) 9.30** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **11.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 1.00** Euro 2016, Turkey v Croatia (kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Midsummer Murders. (R)
- 6.25** Regional Programme; Weather.
- 6.40** ITV News: Weather.
- 7.00** Emmerdale. Bernice turns to Andy for solace after he takes the blame for the damage she has caused. Holly goes into town, leaving Moira behind as she will spend her wages on herself.
- 7.30** Coronation Street. Tracy accuses Steve and the rest of making Amy feel unwanted, while Bill is shocked when Sean turns him. At the bistro, Leanne defends Nick from Robert when he makes a scene, and Sally is horrified to find her conservatory swimming in beer.
- 8.30** Vera. Return of the crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn. The detective investigates a fire that rips through a holiday park on the Northumberland coast, destroying three cabins. A young woman's body is discovered and the resort's owner, Jim Viner, fears the victim is his sister Deena when he returns from a weekend away with his daughter Clare. With Jim's suspicions confirmed, a police report reveals Clare's boyfriend Ryan and his friends had been partying near the scene hours before the blaze started, but where are they now, and where is Deena's best friend Sally? Co-starring Kenny Doughty, Cosh Jumbo and Jon Morrison. (R)
- 10.30** ITV News: Weather.
- 10.45** Euro 2016 Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest three matches in France, featuring Poland v Northern Ireland, Germany v Ukraine and Turkey v Croatia.
- 11.45** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R)
- 12.30** ITV Nightshift. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. **(R) 7.35** The King of Queens. **(R) 8.00** Frasier. **(R) 8.30** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** Frasier. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Cake Makers. **(R) 1.00** Film: Step Up 4: Money Heist. (2015) Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. **2.55** Location, Location, Location. **(R) 4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Scarlette Douglas helps a couple preparing for retirement to find a new home in Tobago, an island they have visited annually for the past 20 years.
- 5.00** Film: Aladdin. (1992) A street urchin happens across a magical lamp, home to a genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger.
- 6.45** Channel 4 News.
- 7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel try to live self-sufficiently, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs. However, they are still without heat and water and the 59 windows are crumbling.
- 8.00** Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress visits the Queen's official Scottish residence, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and explores the bed chamber once occupied by Mary, Queen of Scots. She also boards the royal yacht Britannia and visits Inveraray Castle, where she meets the Master of the Royal Household of Scotland. At Borthwick Castle in Midlothian, she gets a lesson in archery and talks to the Royal Falconer.
- 9.00** Interview with a Murderer. Criminologist Professor David Wilson talks to convicted murderer Bert Spencer, who served 15 years in prison for shooting a man. He has long been suspected of also killing paperboy Carl Bridgewater in 1978, a crime that four men were falsely imprisoned for, but has always protested his innocence of that crime. The programme re-examines the evidence surrounding both cases.
- 10.30** Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights.
- 12.35** Grand Prix: The Killer Years. The dangers of Formula One during the 1960s and 70s. **(R) 1.30** Multi-Million Pound Properties. **(R) 2.25** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.40** Draw It!. **(R) 5.05** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby Travelling Circus. **(R) 6.15** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 6.30** Bob the Builder. **(R) 6.40** Wanda and the Alien. **(R) 6.50** Zack and Quack. **(R) 7.05** Pets. **(R) 7.10** Mulder & Scully. **(R) 7.20** The Big Comfy Couch. **(R) 7.35** Little Princess. **(R) 7.45** Pop Ahoy! **(R) 8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **(R) 8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 8.45** Shimmy and Shine. **(R) 9.10** Jelly Jamm. **(R) 9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flrops. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. **(R) 1.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R) 2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away: Final Demand Special. (R) **3.50** Can't Pay Special: Secrets & Lies. (R) **4.50** Film: Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins.
- 6.50** 5 News Weekend.
- 7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights of the fourth day of the Third Test at Lord's, where the final match of the series continued. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.
- 8.00** Now That's Funny! Featuring a bodybuilder reciting Shakespeare while lifting weights, a selection of videos featuring clumsy couples, and footage of a penguin that has inspired 15 jokes. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week.
- 9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the tasks, games, arguments, laughs, dirt, room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
- 10.00** Most Shocking Moments in Pop 2. Celebrating outrageous events from the world of pop music, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, and George Michael's dubious driving. (R)
- 12.45** Lip Sync Battle. Justin Bieber takes on Delon Sanders. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A doctor sees a smoker who has developed a chronic lung condition. **4.00** Fire Starter: Caught in the Act. **(R) 4.50** Nick's Quest. (R) **5.45** Angels of Järm. (R)

## DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Pappano's Italian Double Bill at the Royal Opera House. **9.40** Planet Earth 10.00 The Sky at Night. **10.30** The Lance Armstrong Story - Stop at Nothing: Storyline. **12.10** Wonders of the Universe 1.10 Horizon: Man on Mars - Mission to the Red Planet. **2.20** Rise of the Continents 3.10 Natural World. **3.55** Close ITV4
- 11.35** Take Me Out 12.50 Love Island 1.20 Catchphrase 2.00 Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **3.05** FYI Daily 3.30 Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **4.00** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **5.00** FYI Daily 5.05 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.10** Hotel Pennsylvania (2012) **7.00** Film: The Ring (2002) **11.55** FYI Daily 12.00 Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **1.15** FYI Daily 2.00 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **8.00** Educating Joey Essex 9.00 Love Island 10.00 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.30 The Cleveland Show 1.25 Educating Joey Essex 2.20 TeleShopping 5.50 TV2 Nightscreen ITV4
- 3.50** Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **5.55** Our Queen at 90 8.00 The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration 10.55 Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **11.55** FYI Daily 12.00 Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **1.10** A Touch of Frost 3.00 May the Best House Win 4.40 On the Buses 5.10 Judge Judy 5.50 TV3 Nightscreen
- 11.25** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 2 12.30 Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Live 2.15 Snooker v Darts 2.25 Pawn Stars 4.15 Film: Gunsmoke (1953) **5.15** FYI Daily 5.20 Film: Gunsmoke (1953) **6.00** Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.05** FYI Daily 9.10 Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.45** Movies Now 10.00 Film: First Blood (1982) **11.50** FYI Daily: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **12.55** FYI Daily 1.00 Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **E4**
- 12.00** Made in Chelsea 1.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 1.20 The Goldbergs 2.20 The Big Bang Theory 7.20 Film: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **10.00** Film: Predators (2010) **12.10** The Inbetweeners 1.20 Gogglebox Film4
- 1.00** Thunderbirds (2004) **2.55** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.45** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.35** Vertical Limit (2000) **9.00** Fantastic Four (2005) **11.05** Powder Room (2013) **12.45** Silver Linings Playbook (2012) **3.15** Close

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MONDAY

**A Sister's Nightmare**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
A police officer's life is turned on its head when her sister shows up at her door after 16 years of confinement in a psychiatric hospital. Drama, starring Natasha Henstridge and Kelly Rutherford. (2013)

TUESDAY

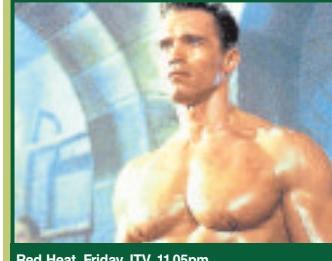
**Columbo: Lady in Waiting**, ITV, 11.40pm

A desperate woman is determined to rid herself of her domineering brother and gain control of the family business, so hatches a plan to shoot him and claim she thought he was a burglar. Although her plan seems to have worked, her new-found power goes to her head – and she also has to contend with Columbo, who is convinced of her guilt. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. (1971)

WEDNESDAY

**Lost Letter Mysteries: From Paris with Love**, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The postal detectives explore the mystery of true love when they deliver divorce papers to one couple on the same day as Oliver's missing wife reappears. Drama, starring Eric Mabius and Crystal Lowe. (2015)



Red Heat, Friday, ITV, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

**Like Mother, Like Daughter**, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A distraught mother takes matters into her own hands when her teenage daughter goes missing and decides to investigate the case herself. She finds a supportive ally in the girl's college professor, but does not realise he is actually the man who murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford, William R Moses and Danielle Kind. (2007)

FRIDAY

**Red Heat**, ITV, 11.05pm

A Russian detective travels to America to oversee the extradition of a Georgian drug baron responsible for supplying cocaine in Moscow. He is teamed up with a hostile Chicago cop, but when their prisoner kills an officer and escapes, they put aside their mutual mistrust to bring him to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi, Peter Boyle, Laurence Fishburne and Ed O'Ress. (1988)

## A Strange end to the season is in store

Fans of the Dark Knight have been rather spoilt this year as Bruce Wayne and his associates dominate the big and small screens.

Obviously there's little chance of the pointy eared sleuth showing up in Gotham: Wrath of the Villains as it takes place before Wayne donned that iconic cowl, but he did get the chance to clash with fellow superhero the Man of Steel in one of the year's most talked about films.

Okay, it may not be a flop of Batman and Robin-style proportions, but Warner Bros' tentpole epic Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice received a savaging from many critics.

Jessie Eisenberg's cringeworthy performance as Lex Luthor, and Wonder Woman sat at a laptop watching trailers for other pending DC Comics-inspired movies such as Aquaman were two of the many problems that led to it underperforming with a \$900million gross.

Not a bad haul by anyone's reckoning, but when you take into account the fact it cost \$250million and needed to gross around

\$600million to break even, Warner bosses were left green with envy when Captain America: Civil War (which had the same price tag) romped away with more than \$1.1 billion.

The clash between Marvel and DC movies has been going on for some years now, and for film fans sometimes proves more fascinating than the flicks themselves.

However, on the small screen DC characters have a better footing with hits such as The Flash, Arrow, Supergirl, Legends of Tomorrow, and this Batman prequel leaving followers hungry for more.

Naturally as this is the series finale, showrunner Bruno Heller has saved a chunk of change to ensure the latest run goes out with a bang.

Trapped inside Professor Hugo Strange's secret monster-making laboratory with a ticking bomb, detective Jim Gordon has to deal with a shape-shifting imposter, while Bruce Wayne and Lucas Fox have to contend with Edward Nygma, aka The Riddler.

In case you're wondering, that's not the same Strange which will be played by Benedict Cumberbatch in upcoming movie Doctor Strange, but a character who has been around since 1940 and became one of the Dark Knight's first recurring characters.

TV fans may recall seeing him in excellent 1990s saga Batman: The Animated Series, and assorted other shows and video games before Jurassic World's BD Wong took on the role in season two of Gotham.

Wong made history as the first actor to play Strange in a live action Captain. Now, with director and star Ben Affleck lined up to make the next Batman movie, and the fact that many villains have been exploited in the nine Dark Knight movies to date (yes, that includes the 1966 camp classic and BVS; DQ), Hugo stands a good chance of returning for Battleck's pending epic.

For now, settle back and enjoy as Ben McKenzie (James Gordon), David Mazouz (Bruce Wayne), Cory Michael Smith (Edward 'Riddler' Nygma) and Jada Pinkett Smith (Fish Mooney) breathe life into Bob Kane's universe.



Gotham: Wrath of the Villains – Season Finale, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

## BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

**Rubish – Battle of the Bins: Tonight**, ITV, 8pm

There was a time when you would throw your empty cans, cereal boxes and plastic milk bottles in the bin, leave it for the rubbish men and they would pick it up once a week. But then everything changed, and suddenly millions had to divide household waste up into different coloured bins and figure out what was being collected on which day. Which might be why for the first time in 10 years the recycling rates are falling, an intriguing statistic as the UK produces millions of tons of waste each year. With some councils reducing bin sizes and collecting rubbish less often, Jonathan Maitland assesses the facts and reports on the potential impact this could have on Britain's streets and the environment.

TUESDAY

**Britain & Europe: The Immigration Question**, BBC2, 9pm

With the EU Referendum approaching next week, Mishal Husain offers viewers an impartial insight into the effects of migration from other EU countries on the UK. Her report takes in everything from the impact on the British economy and jobs market, through to education, housing and the NHS.

Experts from both sides of the in/out debate share their views on the subject, as Mishal assesses how concepts of national identity and visions of Britain's future look set to dictate how the public will vote on Thursday, June 23.

WEDNESDAY

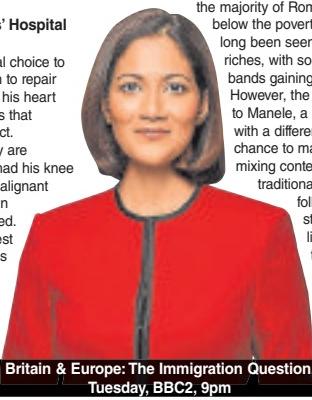
**Your Child In Their Hands: Kids' Hospital**, Channel 5, 7pm

Joanna and Gary have an emotional choice to make. Their son needs an operation to repair his cleft lip and palate, but a hole in his heart as a result of premature birth means that surgery is a very dangerous prospect. Meanwhile, Jack and his mum Vicki are hospital regulars. A year ago, Jack had his knee and thigh amputated to remove a malignant tumour, but after just a few months in remission, Jack's cancer has returned. The hours after school are the busiest times in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital's A&E department, and an 11-year-old girl is on her way in. She has fallen from a climbing frame and suffered a severe blow to the head, an experience which makes her mum re-evaluate her life.

THURSDAY

**The New Gypsy Kings**, BBC2, 9pm

No, this is not a film about a tribute act singing Bamboleo. Instead it's a look at the latest trend in Gypsy music that is sweeping across Romania. As the majority of Romania's Roma live below the poverty line, music has long been seen as a passport to riches, with some traditional Gypsy bands gaining international fame. However, the genre has given rise to Manele, a new type of music with a different sound and the chance to make even more cash, mixing contemporary pop with traditional Romanian Gypsy folk music. Though its stars live luxurious lifestyles, earning up to 20,000 Euros a night, Manele has been described as the Gypsy version of gangster rap and its biggest stars have had connections to



Britain &amp; Europe: The Immigration Question, Tuesday, BBC2, 9pm

some of the country's most notorious underworld figures. Filmmaker Liviu Tipurita takes a closer look at this controversial craze.

FRIDAY  
**Gogglesprogs**, Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Following on from a pilot edition shown last Christmas, the Gogglesprogs return for a six-part run in which they maintain a close eye on a range of TV output, from entertainment shows and documentaries to some all-time classic films and up-to-the-minute news stories. Participants include six-year-old Molly and her eight-year-old brother William who both love helping out on the family farm, Stephanie who adores Justin Bieber and her friend Christina who prefers classical music, and schoolmates Jacob and Connor. In this opening programme, the youngsters offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on The Undateables, Donald Trump and Mamma Mia.

Eurotrash, Channel 4, 9pm  
A special edition of the cult hit show reminding viewers of the many, varied and occasionally alarming cultural delights enjoyed by their European cousins.

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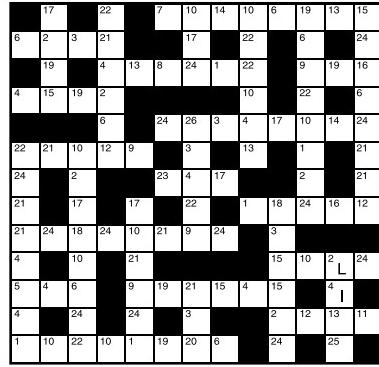
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## BRAIN GYM No.381

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

X	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
H	D	W	K	Q	J	P	Y	U	C	I	V	
F	G	L	R	S	O	T	T	B	E			
M	A	N	T	E	N	T	E	N	T			

## Quiz

- Who wrote a trilogy of books featuring the spy Bernard Samson?
- Of which fruit is the plantain a subspecies?
- From which football club did Billy Bonds claim he was forced out after 27 years?
- Between which two countries was the former kingdom of Navarre divided?
- Of which county is Parts of Holland a former separate administrative county?
- Who wrote the cantata Carmina Burana?
- From which tree is gum arabic obtained?
- In which country is the province Friesland?
- Who was the first Irish athlete ever to win a gold medal at the European Championships?
- By what name was Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known?

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

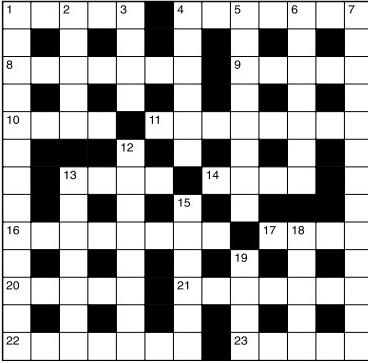
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Habit makes us grow old (5)
- A match for the devil (7)
- Just a moment! (7)
- Not standing for falsehoods? (5)
- Puts away in great style (4)
- Apparently is not to be satisfied with just part, nevertheless (5,3)
- They secure no decisions on the field (4)
- The staff came to be disorganised (4)
- Why we consult reference books, of course (2,2,4)
- Domesticated, thanks to me! (4)
- Prize awarded for a zero mark? (5)
- It's hot being a great performer in heavy going (7)
- Sew lots, perhaps, but the last to finish? (7)
- It's made to measure (5)

## Down

- One girl is not changed for an international body (6,7)
- Tessa came up with something useful (5)
- Made up cheese (4)
- Fired, yet treated leniently (3,3)
- This way won't get you anywhere (3-2,3)
- Equipment in what must be a warship (7)
- He takes each issue as it comes (7,6)
- Let's out that the radio's a gift (4,4)
- There's no smoke without it! (7)
- Speedy help for a forgetful actor (6)
- Be of service when a few grow sick (5)
- Sure to upset an employer (4)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

- Fear (5)
- Betoken (7)
- Hide (7)
- Rank (5)
- Sole (4)
- Mockery (8)
- Forehead (4)
- Yield (4)
- Last (8)
- Head (4)
- Intellect (5)
- Obscure (7)
- Implore (7)
- Hail (5)

## Down

- Shameful (13)
- Surpass (5)
- Act (4)
- Like better (6)
- Recipient (8)
- Scrutinize (7)
- Separation (13)
- Start (8)
- Clamorous (7)
- Climb (6)
- Sufficient (5)
- Droop (4)

## Sudoku

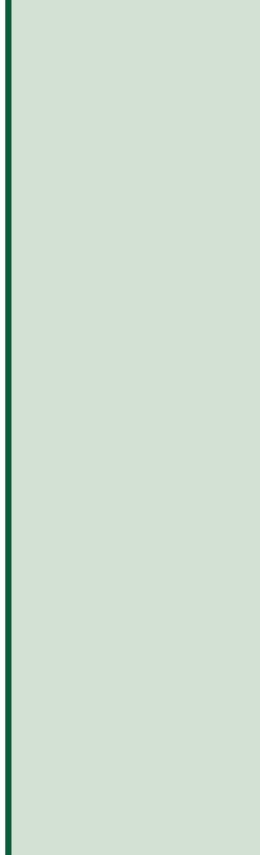


Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >  
4 3 2 7 8 1 5 9 6  
9 6 5 3 4 2 1 7 8  
1 7 8 5 6 9 2 4 3  
7 5 6 9 8 4 3 2 1  
8 2 9 6 5 4 7 1 0  
0 1 4 3 7 5 9 6 5  
6 9 3 1 7 5 8 2 4  
5 4 7 8 2 6 3 1 9  
2 8 1 4 9 3 6 5 7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Pikes; 8 Once; 9 Retailing; 10 Bedlam; 11 Stand; 14 Lures; 15 Tear; 16 Errant; 18 Sausages; 21 Stoney; 24 Rolling; 25 French door; 26 Learns; 27 Down; 1 Doubtless; 2 Acid drops; 4 Item; 5 Exact; 6 Talent; 7 Fine; 9 Raise; 11 Slimy; 12 Deposited; 13 Press gang; 17 Stair; 19 Spinal; 22 Adder; 23 Proa; 24 Roan. QUICK - Across: 3 Ascertain; 8 Reap; 9 Contended; 10 Callow; 11 Brief; 14 Pupil; 15 Tarn; 16 Stain; 17 Damp; 18 Damp; 21 Lathered; 24 Delighted; 26 Fort; 27 Government; Down: 1 Precipice; 2 Callipers; 4 Slow; 5 Enter; 6 Tender; 7 Ideal; 9 Colls; 11 Brand; 12 Falsehood; 13 Ventilate; 17 Noted; 19 Native; 22 Ashen; 23 Nero; 24 Less.

## Thinking space



## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7238 gives an instrument,  
5695 gives an opera,  
4171 gives a musical piece.



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Lamb beyti served with salad



Centrally placed, this Turkish treasure – Basil of Anatolia



Chicken shish dish

# Nothing Fawlty about this one, Basil is a real Turkish delight

ONE place that Walsall really lags behind on is its dining scene.

Other than your usual smattering of chain eateries you are hard-pressed to find somewhere centrally that offers up that taste of difference.

So when news filtered through that a new option was coming – and it would have the USP of Turkish food – the town really sat up and took notice.

And having now experienced what Basil of Anatolia has to offer, let's hope it is able to grow and thrive.

From what we witnessed one cool Friday night they deserve to be able to capture their own corner of the market and make a real go of it. And in times of economic hardship it would be nice to have a success story to use as a proverbial two fingers to all the doom-mongers and pessimistic bad news

By Leigh Sanders

merchants. Basil, as the place will from now on affectionately be called, has a central location, round the corner from the library, nestled on Freer Street.

Of course the downside can be the difficulty to park. But given most of the surrounding council-owned car parks are free after 6pm you can leave your vehicle in the one just off Lichfield Street and it's only a short stroll away.

It has a simple feel, yet is clean and strangely welcoming given the building is just a generic food space – it was Jenny's Restaurant before if that joggs people's memory.

It wasn't busy for a Friday night, sad to see given our earlier hopes that this will be a successful venture. Hopefully this was a glitch the evening we attended and that on

a normal evening, the people of Walsall and beyond are more outgoing.

With near enough the freedom of the venue we picked a table at the back to try and avoid the happy hubbub of a couple of larger groups sitting near the entrance.

## Conversation

Everything felt clean and new. One nice touch was each table had the venue's name and logo etched into them.

We were approached quickly. Our server engaged us in conversation straight away. He asked whether we had eaten Turkish food before and our tastes when it came to spices. This is always helpful when trying somewhere new.

We ordered, and were provided with ginormous olives soaked in oils and soft, light chunks of bread that we probably shouldn't have wolfed down so early if we had hoped

to last three courses. For starters I had sucuk – a spicy Turkish sausage. The meat was soft and tender. My friend had the falafel – minced, deep fried balls of chickpeas, fresh vegetables, garlic and sesame seeds served with tangy chutney.

When we dined the place had not yet received its alcohol license so was serving soft drinks only but that will change.

For mains I opted for lamb beyti – lamb mincemeat with garlic and parsley on a skewer.

My flatmate had the chicken shish, chunks of soft and tender chicken in a mildly spiced marinade.

A second bowl of bread was also being wolfed down. This was probably a bad idea, and meant we had no room to brave a dessert afterwards. Lovely food and people, so come on people give it a try.

**sunbeam**

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5\* was such a relaxing environment for my dogs, Dolly and Oscar! Thanks  
Kerry-Ann Wolohan (Facebook)

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First time I have used Posh Kutz for my dog Cane. Wish I had known about this place before!  
Beverley Smith (Facebook)

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Fabulous modern four-bed detached in a great location

This fabulous modern, four-bedroomed detached family home in an exclusive development of just three houses, 3 St Peters Road, Netherton, Dudley is for sale through Trinity Property at £259,950.

The accommodation briefly comprises three reception rooms and a conservatory, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a utility room off, four large bedrooms (master with en-suite shower/WC), a driveway to the front with a garage, extensive gardens and a patio area to rear.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Having double glazing and central heating, this family home must be viewed to appreciate its space and layout."

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor landing and a WC off. The dining room has a glazed door through to the lounge which has sliding French doors to the conservatory, which in turn has a door opening to the rear garden.

The kitchen has a door through to the utility room, which in turn has a door opening to the rear garden and a further door to a second utility room.

Off the first floor the master bedroom has a door opening to its private en-suite shower room and the bathroom includes a shower over the bath.

Trinity Property bring a fresh, friendly and honest approach to selling, buying and letting property within the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

Offering free market appraisals, great EPC prices, and all aspects of property letting and management, they are based in central Dudley and cover Kingswinford, Wordsley, Netherton, Sedgley, Tipton and Tividale and more, with a business built on recommendation.

With many years of experience to bring to the table, you can expect great service at the right price, said a spokesman for the company.

"We can offer you internet marketing on Rightmove, OnTheMarket, TrinityProperty.net and others, as well as local and regional marketing in newspapers including the Express & Star and Chronicals, along with our eye-catching Cerise and Black (Sales) and Yellow and Green (Lettings) boards on the streets.



### KEY FEATURES

- En-suite to master bedroom
- Modern fitted kitchen
- 3 reception rooms
- 4 bedrooms
- On a small exclusive development



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# Hicks Hadley

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**COVENTRY**, Underhill Close £1,300 pcm+ Fees  
A great opportunity to rent this well presented modern 4 bedroom detached property in the sought after location of Fihans/park of Baginton area, current rated grade: Outstanding on January 21st 2015. This double glazed, gas central heated house has entrance hall, cloakroom, large lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 good size bedrooms with en-suite shower, 3 with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom, garage, driveway & low maintenance garden. EPC: D



**SUTTON COLDFIELD**, Lichfield Road £795 pcm+ Fees  
A delightful ground floor two bedroom apartment with an en-suite to master. The property has excellent links to Birmingham City Centre, being located a short walk from the railway station, is gas centrally heated and double glazed and is located in a gated complex with secure allocated parking.



**KIDDERMINSTER**, Grosvenor Avenue £795 pcm+ Fees  
Stunning 3 storey semi detached town house in a quiet cul-de-sac position within walking distance of Kidderminster train station. Completely refurbished to a very high standard. Front reception room, lounge with feature fireplace with wood-burner, modern fitted kitchen with appliances. Three large double bedrooms, beautiful bathroom with separate shower cubicle and a roll edged clawed foot free standing bath. Not to be missed. No Pets, no DSS. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN**, Meadowbrook Road £975 pcm+ Fees  
Large 3 bed mucklow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, bathroom with shower, garage (storage only), private rear garden, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heated and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree and Lutley Primary School. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Mayfield Road £695 pcm+ Fees  
An unfurnished detached bungalow set in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very popular residential area close to schools and bus links. Featuring large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens, garage. A property to be seen and appreciated. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN**, Sanderson Place £950 pcm+ Fees  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



**WOLVERHAMPTON**, Chelston Drive £650 pcm+ Fees  
A 3 bedroom detached home located in a quiet cul-de-sac location and benefits gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, garage and paved driveway. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Middlefield Avenue £650 pcm+ Fees  
Located in Hurst Green this unfurnished semi detached house comprising of 2 Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Room 1: A fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a further single. Benefits from a garage and driveway with low maintenance gardens. Very popular area. Viewings highly recommended.



**CRADLEY HEATH**, Surfe Hill Road £645 pcm+ Fees  
A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large lounge/diner with access to the garden, modern fitted kitchen, shower to bathroom, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: E



**STOURBRIDGE**, Queensway £625 pcm+ Fees  
A really deceptive and extended 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has recently been fully refurbished, including central heating system, kitchen, shower room, doors and carpets! You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer, there is even a summer house in the garden! driveway, fore/rear gardens. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN**, Wroxley House £625 pcm+ Fees  
Luxury living in Hayley Green is this superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



**HALESOWEN**, Portsdown Road £595 pcm+ Fees  
A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached house in sought after area. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of, hall, guest wc, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden, driveway and gas central heating and double glazing.



**EDGBASTON**, Shooters Close £575 pcm+ Fees  
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac. A stones throw away from Calmwood Park. This semi-detached home comprising of: Two double bedrooms, large lounge, large kitchen, family bathroom, brand new double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking and a garage, further benefits from front and rear gardens.



**STOURBRIDGE**, Oakfield Road £575 pcm+ Fees  
• A LONG TERM RENTAL PROPERTY • A really deceptive 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has recently been fully refurbished in the last 12 months. Featuring a spacious lounge, brand new fitted kitchen and bathroom. You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer. Driveway and garage, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Willets Drive £575 pcm+ Fees  
An immaculately presented mid terrace property situated within a sought after and convenient location. This house features living room, modern refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom and an easy to maintain rear garden with views of Cleat. Also benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and communal parking. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH**, Silverthorne Lane £525 pcm+ Fees  
A really well presented modern style 2 bedroom house close to Cradley Heath Train Station and bus links. Lounge with fireplace, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Minimum 12 month contract. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN**, Fairmile Road £525 pcm+ Fees  
Furnished to Suit. Situated in popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town, is this two double bedroom, two reception room, kitchen, bathroom with shower, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens. EPC: E



**KIDDERMINSTER**, Patin House £525 pcm+ Fees  
A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom. Double glazing, gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN/COLEY GATE**, Ladysmith Road £495 pcm+ Fees  
A mid terraced house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good size bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH**, Elbow Street £440 pcm+ Fees  
Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



**CRADLEY HEATH**, Elbow Street £425 pcm+ Fees  
An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D

# PROPERTY



## Extended home in popular location has five bedrooms

A splendid extended semi-detached family home in a popular location in Dingle Close, Oakham, Dudley, lies in a cul-de-sac just off the Oakham Road.

**OAKHAM, DUDLEY**  
£274,995

for at least three cars, an entrance lobby, an entrance hall with stairs off, a downstairs WC, an open-plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear

garden, a utility area, a modern fitted kitchen with breakfast bar and with a family room off. On the first floor there are five, good-sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. Outside the rear garden has decking, lawn and a further play area.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit [www.trinityproperty.net](http://www.trinityproperty.net)



**Beautiful detached home on the market**

**PEDMORE, STOURBRIDGE**

£395,000

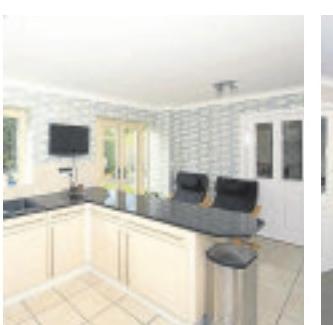
<<<

12 Meon Rise, Pedmore, Stourbridge is a beautifully presented and spacious four-bedroomed detached residence on a modern, landmark development.

The property boasts a luxury specification with a kitchen/breakfast room, a large family lounge and dining room with a dual aspect, an enlarged laundry, two en-suites and a private rear garden.

Each room offers individual, stylish décor. The property further benefits from double glazed windows and gas fired central heating. The landscaped rear garden has a paved patio and additional circular seating area and lawn. There is a front driveway for two vehicles.

Contact **The Lee Shaw Partnership** on 01384 396066 or visit [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com)







# Express & Star

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## Single Women

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**LOVELY**, lady, inside and out, very caring, loving nature, likes music, days out, countryside, poetry, long walks, meals in and out, looking for a gentleman, 65-80. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422525

**SARAH**, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated blonde seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**JEAN**, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTM local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571

**KIM**, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet friend for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

**JOANNE**, 48, curly black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

**JANE**, young, 41, very broadminded seeks chaps any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**SARA** 34y, old soul single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541

**LUCY** first time advertiser, 32, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

**JO** 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422545

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0905 515 3019 Box: 413399

**LORNA** 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box: 421375

**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

**WENDY**, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605

**BIRMINGHAM** female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 66 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 547459

**ROSE**, genuine well educated, sophisticated lady 29yrs WLTM fun loving chap, any age for chats, lunch, discreet meetings. Box: 412470 Text only

**JACKIE**, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

**JAYNE**, bored housewife, 42yrs looking for someone to spice up her days with some fun and jokes. Box: 415572 Text only

70 years young attractive caring genuine lady, seeks honest reliable man for friendship days out and poss LTR. Bristol/Bath area. Text only Mailbox: 448489

**PAT**, petite blonde, lady, GSoh, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSoh. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

**RITA**, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

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**MERRY**, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422339

**BARBARA**, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422411

**50YRS**, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469

**CARING**, honest female, WLTM genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422111

**NICOLA** 32yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe more with similar open-minded uncomplicated companion. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422487

**LUCY** 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455

**MARILYN** 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

**EMMA** 56, active, looking for the right female, looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

**SARAH**, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

**LUCY**, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

**CHRISTINE**, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSoh to make my life complete again. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

**ANNA**, 41, new single life seeking caring professional mate for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422127

**MARILYN** blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

**TINA**, 43, young looking attractive single female, looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421616

**LOVELY** lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSoh. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

**FEMALE**, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 544634

**CARING** honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only, Text only Mailbox: 420946

**MANDY** independent dependent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841

**FEMALE** seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. Text only Mailbox: 544451

**BROWN** eyed bubbly female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 440166

**SHARON** 49, well to wed, cuddly, young at heart, happy, easygoing, loves the coast, and seaside looking for honest friendly male. Text only Mailbox: 544418

**ROSEMARY** early 50s, GSoh, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. Text only Mailbox: 507989

**SUE** 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809

**REBECCA** tel slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583

**CARING** honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 420946

**SUE**, 39, slim feminine, GSoh, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. Text only Mailbox: 422619

**SUGAR** daddy, business man in North Birmingham, would love to spoil a slim woman, any race, children no problem. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422599

**50YR** old slim, genuine male, seeks female, any age for fun times. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397508

**JOANNA**, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 422823

**LORRAINE** bored 36y old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/size. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

**FEMALE**, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walking, for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4359974

**JENNY**, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

**CHRIS**, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

**KATHY**, 45, curly blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

**KAREN** 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

**FEMALE**, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walking, for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4359974

**JOANNA**, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 422823

**LORRAINE** bored 36y old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/size. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

**FEMALE**, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walking, for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4359974

**CHRIS**, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

**HONEST** sincere affectionate male, 40, GSoh, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

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(leave space) and then enter your message & send to

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send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost

£1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You

must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap

contact details. Messages may be moderated for your

safety and security.



ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. Text only Mailbox: 544924

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend times together and loving relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422174

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender, etc. ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203

WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTM lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. Text only Mailbox: 4625673

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. Text only Mailbox: 4918364

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTM female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. Text only Mailbox: 4215562

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTM someone to share interests and quality time. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422239

MALE, 56, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual sparkling. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422424

MALE, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humor, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

CARING man, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149

MATURE male, 50s, looking for a female, 30-60, for adult fun and pleasure. LTR? This guy, 69, unattached, WLTM you. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422619

RAMONE, very fit, looking for a like minded lady, any age, for discreet adult fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4225673

ATTRACTIVE, mature Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks attractive female, 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358113

ATTRACTIVE Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seek attractive, Asian female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361467

JOE, 46, attractive male, GSoh, lady/care owner, well travelled, seeking mature lady for friendship, possibly more, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420665

NOTTINGHAM Stevie 59, N/S, GSoh, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177

MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTM female for intimate adult fun and pleasure. ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar girl for enjoy TLC and life. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

HONEST sincere affectionate male, 40, GSoh, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. Text only Mailbox: 5457564

COLIN 48, kind loving, sees cuddly large full body kind loving/lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. Text only Mailbox: 5439562

MELANIE 47, seeks straight female friends for nights out, pubs, clubs, concerts, etc. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Text only to mailbox: 5345662

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841

## Customer support

Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

or email us at [support@jmediauk.co.uk](mailto:support@jmediauk.co.uk)

CALL CHARGES\*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT\*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to [www.localdates-terms.co.uk/](http://www.localdates-terms.co.uk/). REPLY BY TEXT\*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text STOP to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES\*: By text any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW1, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or Phone PayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. w/c 06/06/16

# 30 Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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## FreeAds

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to £250

### VISIT:

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

### Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING (Blackheath) Ltd**

Independent family run Funeral Directors

24 hour service  
Halesowen 0121 422 2794

[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### lost & found

LOST - White Budgie, Park Village area, Wolverhampton. Call 07858 197417.

**1**  
Family

### elderly & disabled

**INVACARE COBIRI**  
Portable scooter with rain cape, cover and instruction manual. Dismantle for storage and transport. Cost £950 new. Immaculate. £450ono. 07980 572793.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** reconditioned from £250. Mon - delivery available. Call: Powerlink Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

**TWO POWER** massage black electrical recliner chairs and stools, cost £500 (receipts), sell £400, in store/g. 07947 801443.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397 / 07897 273617

**2**  
Leisure Time

### caravans / motorhomes

**ABI STATIC CARAVAN** Three bedroom, 35 x 10, Mid Wales. Site fees included for 2016, dog friendly. £3,800. 07922 351352 no texts.

**STATIC CARAVAN 2** Bedroom Cotswold Water Park. First to See will buy. Contact Cameron £15,995. 07814 224762.

**STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10** 6-berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016. Dog friendly. £4,500. 07922 351352 No texts.

**TOURING CARAVAN** 2 berth, Swift Challenger 360 SE, 2014, full cooker, full fridges, loads of extras, awning, £4,950. 07799 378190.

### caravans wanted

### WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS**  
**07776373150**

CARAVAN WANTED Cash on pick up, ASAP.  
Call me on 07717 090817.

### fishing

**FISHING TACKLE WANTED** anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

### jumble sales / fetes

#### BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR

Sunday 12th June  
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE  
DV7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

### music shop

**DRUMMER REQUIRED** for heavy rock / metal band, own transport and equipment essential. If interested call Jason on 07761 354721.

**FENDER RUMBLE** bass amp, Fender precision bass copy. Digital bass effects. Bass guitar leads. £280 mono. 07809 489134.

### ticket

**TWO TICKETS** for ELO, on June 24, at Barclaycard Arena, C block. Offers around £124 each. 07742 835429 or 01299 832655.

**TWO TICKETS** for ELO, on June 24, at Barclaycard Arena, C block. Offers around £124 each. 01299 832655.

### holidays

### self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday Apartments

Disabled Facilities Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
[www.GoSomerSet.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerSet.co.uk)

**BUDE, CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET** On 4\* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. June / Sep £140pw, July £200pw, School Holidays £390pw. 07974 226928.

### what's on

### markets

**STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge Rugby Club

Open every Wednesday from 18th May  
**07957 399964**

**3**  
Home & Services

### collectables & memorabilia

**SCALEXTRIC SETS** 1 - Le Mans, (just cars missing), 2 Mini sets, all good condition and working. £60 o.n.o. Wton 07770 600888.

### furniture

**SINGLE 3FT X 6FT BED**, white, steel frame. With mattress, as new, unused. £85. 07922 761701.

**SINGLE DIVAN BED** 2 drawers, as new. £120. 07922 761701. bought in error, cost £289. sell for £90. 01902 397753 / 07775 090300.

**THREE PIECE SUITE** and foot stool, beige with floral cushions and arm protectors, as new, cost £2,000, sell £350. 01902 845202.

### in your garden

**MOUNTFIELD RV40**, 150CC. Hand propelled petrol mower, as new. £75ono. Wolverhampton 07770 600888.

### items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publisher of any changes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### items wanted

#### ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE

#### CASH PAID TODAY

#### A GENUINE LADY BUYER

All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • ALL OTHER ALTERNATIVE ITEMS  
Price per ounce colour or weight etc  
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
HOUSE CLEARANCES

01922 495066 or 07971 783205

### A BEST CASH PRICE

### FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

#### Any gauge or age

Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farish / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Spot-on, 01384 836219 / 07971 713547. thetrainmaster67@ hotmail.com

### ticket

### A BEST CASH PRICE PAID

### A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

#### OAP discount. Reception Prices.

#### Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10

#### Call Paul 07870 341089

### fencing

### PORTWAY FENCING

#### SPECIAL OFFER

#### 10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards

#### £695

#### Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.

#### 6x4 H/D Treated panels £15.95

#### 6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95

#### 8 foot concrete panels £8.95

#### 12 inch 6 foot gravel boards £7.95

#### 0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656

#### Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm

#### Sat 8am - 12noon

#### 83 Portway Rd, W'bury

#### www.portwayfencing.co.uk

### ClassifiedAds

### BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

### PORTWAY FENCING

### IT WORKS FOR ME

### FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES

Tickets and other sports memorabilia. Top prices paid for the right item. Call Paul on 01543 251743.

### WANTED

I WILL BUY YOUR OLD BRITISH OR AMERICAN SILVER COINS (BEFORE 1946). Any quantity. Immediate cash. Ring John on 07973 211468 or 01270 619154.

### WANTED

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted all conditions, railway collections. Dinky, Corgi vehicles, any condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

### WANTED

Car, motorbike, tractor and truck sales leaflets, brochures, books, handbooks, manuals, models and old motorbike or scooter. 01743 718323.

### specialists at your service

### aerials

### AA DIGITAL AERIALS

#### 1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90

#### WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE

#### Work Guaranteed

#### 01902 585191

#### 01384 429166

#### 01543 439095

#### 01922 716029

#### 07833 738857

### gas fitting

### shed reflets now available!

#### 01384 620 072

#### 07908 478 962

### gas fitting

### READERS ARE ADVISED

#### To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

#### It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

### gas fitting

### T L Fowkes Roofing & Building Solutions

#### FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

#### call or email

#### 07895 334 946

#### t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk

#### Experts in all roofing and building aspects

#### including:

#### • Flat Roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing

#### • uPVC and all major building works

#### MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call

#### 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

### roofing

### removals

### gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

### house clearances

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043274.

CALL DEAN NOW! For all your domestic needs. Call 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

### Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP

Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service.

House clearances. Quality service guaranteed lowest rates

Call John - 07802 876 876 office - 01662 540 640

### service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE

Estimates on any TV Repairs, Installation, Loop, Line, Previews.

All areas covered 8 till late, 7 days.

Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

### 4 Pets & Animals

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required passport information.

### vets

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

### pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation if possible.

WV, Midland & News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

# Classified Ads

01902 317878 | classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

PURE BRED kittens and young pure bred cats, to loving, permanent homes only. £150. 01902 894545.

STAFFIE TERRIER 20 months old, not barking, no children. Call for details. £280. 01902 218944.

TOY COCKAPOO 10 months old. Show Cocker, Dad, Toy Poodle. 1st Vacs. 4 weeks insurance, chipped. From £595. 01952 730522.

## guns & dogs



### properties wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price**

## We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

### WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

**0800 999 999 6**  
or 01902 628047 24/7

[www.black-countryhomes.co.uk](http://www.black-countryhomes.co.uk)

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy - big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624022

5

## Business & Farming

### business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6

## Property

### accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FURNISHED 1 bed flat, Warstones, recent refurb, close to amenities, suit working couple/single. £400pcm. 07969 104264.

### overseas property



#### HOUSE AND GITE BEAUFIEF, FRANCE

House has two bedrooms and a ensuite and a large living room with open plan dining and kitchen area with a large log burner. Gite has open plan living room / kitchen and upstairs is a bedroom. £130.00.

For more info e-mail steve -carol1@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTICE TO READERS  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

### houses for sale

#### ATTRACTIVE SPACIOUS END PLOT

Three Double bed semi. In village with amenities, near Oswestry. Scope extension, upgrade, DG. £139,950. Greenfields. 01691 680044.

8

## Motoring

### cars under £1500

#### ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 316 COMPACT. 2003, blue MoT November, 102k, alloys, full electrics. Immaculate. £1,000. 07930 374988.

BMW 318i CONVERTIBLE 1996 N reg, MoT 2017, dark blue, new tyres, hard top fitted, hood need replacing, hood electrics need attention, good runner. £900. 01384 637431 (evenings) or 07768 292673.

PERODUA MYVI 2007, Lady Owner. Genuine 28,000 Miles from new, air con, FSH, MoT March 2017, excellent condition. £1,495 ono. 01902 663180.

PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE 2002, 82k Miles, Silver, 11 months MoT, FSH, MoT January 2017, 1st car. £650. 01902 889759.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Campus, met silver, 57 plate (reg 2009) long MoT, excellent condition through to 2015. £1,000. 07733 437736.

ROVER 45 SPORT 1.6, 2001, 1st owner, 49k miles, service history, MoT, metallic blue, good condition. £695. 07580 163956.

ROVER 75, 05 reg, 40,000, MoT Jan 17, head gasket, needs repair, silencer, front wheel. Offers. 01902 844605.

ROVER 75 DIESEL full MoT, 52. Immaculate, heated seats, leather interior, new clutch, 1 owner. £900. 01384 251328 or 07972 169524.

ROVER 75 TOURER 2.0 diesel 02 reg, MoT 2017, 100k miles, £800 or part exchange for MoT or Van. Telephone 07754 121452.

VAUXHALL ASTRA new shape, 54 reg, EW, EM, A/C, long MoT, 5dr, metallic paintwork, alloys, CD player. £895. 0mo. 07754 557861.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 52 plate Diesel 7 seats, electric windows, A/C, alloy, tow-bar. Blue. MoT Mar 2017. £475. o.n.o. 01902 656638.

WV GOLF 1.9 TDI black, 53 reg, 5 door, 61k, 12 months MoT, EW, sunroof, alloy wheels, great condition. £1,400. 0mo. 07860 655421.

WV POLO 1.4 16V 51 reg, 57k, met grey, 5 door, MoT 2017, very good condition, needs some attention. £400 ono. 07496 069550.

cars over £1500

CITROEN C4, 2008, 2 door, hatchback, 1.6 VTR petrol, blue, 36,000 miles. FSH, MoT 2017, good condition. £2,695. 0mo. 07843 456000.

CITROEN XSARA Picasso Desire, 16v, 2006, silver, CD radio, EW, E/M, alloys, hands free, blue tooth phone kit, perfect runner. £3,750 ono. 07528 372995 / 07813 141794.

### classic cars

MERCEDES SLK 230 auto, red convertible, 1995 - 49,000 miles, £4,000. 0mo. 07850 336652.

WANTED CLASSIC CARS. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition.

01630 562993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

every time

## We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

## MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD, WV1 6ZB

ABC AUTO SALVAGE

WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best

Prices Paid ELV Registered

Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or 0121 557

0400. Evening 07813 184611

Oldbury Area.

JAMES RICHARD KENNETH ASHILL (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 138 Lodgefield Road Halesowen West Midlands, who died on 24/10/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on before 19/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BBH Legal Services Limited

Eastham Hall 109 Eastham Village Road

Eastham Wirral Cheshire CH62 0AF

T473845

### vehicles wanted

## A1 AUTOS WANTED

CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP,

MOT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION

£50-£10,000

WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS

07527 303 336

(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

01562 711083 /

07813 253513

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best

price for your unwanted cars/vans.

07903 549849, 01902 597035.

WANTED JAGUAR XK8

Private buyer, looking to buy an

XK8 convertible or similar, must

be in fantastic condition.

07709 131955.

WANTED Private buyer requires

small 1st time car, good condition

and reliable.

07939 090666.

WANTED Private buyer requires

small 1st time car, good condition

and reliable.

Must be single.

Box Number P20388 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN LATE 70'S

Own house and car.

WLTM Lady of similar age for

possible Friendship / relationship

to go on holidays together,

quality time together.

Halesowen / Blackheath area.

Other areas considered.

Box Number P20386 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TALL TRIM MALE

55 years, honest and caring

with own house and car, seeks lady

45-55 years for long term

relationship, must be honest

and sincere for holidays UK and abroad.

Box Number P20380 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RING OR TEXT 07774 340333.

RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY

NAS, EDUCATED, LATE 70'S

LONELY WIDOWER

Own house and car, seeks n/s

females company for enjoyable

times, cinema, theatre, day

trips, holidays etc.

Car owner preferred, close to

WV6, Tettenhall.

Box Number P20370 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

5

Business &

Farming

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Classified Advertising Works!

To advertise your business call 01902 319 191

Classified Advertising Works!

WE NAILED IT!

Classified Advertising Works!

Classified Advertising

# Star Reader Travel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind



For more information or for brochures  
contact the Express & Star Promotions Team  
Telephone: 01902 319999  
Opening times: Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm  
Online: [www.starreadertravel.com](http://www.starreadertravel.com)

Pick of the week

## The Hive at Kew Gardens

### Price Includes

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Kew Gardens
- ✓ Entrance to RHS Wisley
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 25**

## Jersey — Free night offer\*

From £269

- ✓ Return flights from Manchester or Birmingham
- ✓ Bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Mayfair Hotel in St Helier
- ✓ Entertainment in the hotel
- ✓ Return transfers from the airport in Jersey
- ✓ Turkey and Tinsel plus Christmas and New Year breaks are also offered
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

\*Free night offers for departures up to October 31, 2016, e.g. four nights for the price of three (conditions apply)

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

**DAYS: 4 TO 8 DEPARTS: Various**



## Krakow

From £399

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation at a four-star centrally located hotel
- ✓ Guided walking tour of Krakow
- ✓ Visit to the Wawel castle district
- ✓ Visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau
- ✓ Optional tour to the Salt Mines
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

**DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Various 2016/17**



Discover the incredible life of a bee thanks to a unique multi sensory experience called The Hive.

This award-winning structure was created for the 2015 World Expo in Milan and has been creating a buzz ever since, attracting swarms of visitors who are keen to step inside a huge bee colony.

The Hive will take up its new home for a short time at the spectacular Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, which contains a stunning array of plant life, glasshouses and galleries.

It won multiple awards including gold medal for best architecture and landscape design, stands 17 metres tall and weighs in at around 40 tonnes, with hundreds of glowing LED lights, orchestral sounds and an undercurrent of buzzes and pulses which bring it to life. Other attractions at Kew include the Temperate House, the Princess of Wales Conservatory with its 10 different climatic zones, the Palm House and its collection of rainforest species, plus the 50 metre high Pagoda.

A visit is also made to RHS Garden Wisley. Here the Glasshouse is a particular highlight which is home to all kinds of exotic plants. The mixed borders are another highlight, provide one of the most famous views of the garden, and are filled with bulbs, annuals, hardy and tender perennials, shrub and pollarded trees.

From £129

## The Duxford Air Show Meet the Fighters

From £159

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to the Duxford Air Show at the Imperial War Museum Duxford
- ✓ Visit to Bletchley Park
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)  
**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 10**

## Emmerdale The Tour

From £145

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Visit to Emmerdale The Tour, including a guided walking tour
- ✓ Visit to Esholt - 'Emmerdale village' and Otley - 'Hotton'
- ✓ Stop at the original 'Woolpack' pub in Esholt
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 25**

## Royal Yacht Britannia Edinburgh and Glasgow

From £329

- ✓ Four nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Tour and tasting at the Glengoyne Distillery
- ✓ Scenic visit to Queen Elizabeth Forest including Aberfoyle
- ✓ Cruise on Steam Ship Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine
- ✓ Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia
- ✓ Cruise on Loch Lomond
- ✓ Visits to Edinburgh and Glasgow
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 5 DEPARTS: October 16**

## Windsor Castle, Tower of London and Cutty Sark

From £279

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Windsor Castle and the Tower of London
- ✓ Entrance to Cutty Sark
- ✓ Free time in Windsor and London
- ✓ Visit to Henley-on-Thames and Royal Greenwich
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Aug 26, Sept 9**

## BBC Good Food Bakes and Cakes Show

From £125

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a three-star outer London Hotel
- ✓ Entrance to the BBC Good Food Show and the BBC Good Food Bakes and Cakes Show in London
- ✓ Seat in the Supertheatre
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: November 12**

## Afternoon Tea at the Houses of Parliament

From £299

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- ✓ Afternoon tea in the Terrace Pavilion of the House of Commons overlooking the Thames
- ✓ Visits to St Albans, Kenwood House and the Royal Air Force Museum
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Aug 26, Sept 9**

## Innsbruck, Salzburg and Lake Garda

From £649

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Seven nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Full day tour of Lake Garda
- ✓ Scenic journey into the Austrian Tyrol
- ✓ Visits to Salzburg and Innsbruck
- ✓ Optional excursions also offered
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

**DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various 2016**



## Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

From £799

The Sorrento peninsula and bay of Naples is simply one of the most beautiful corners of Europe. Probably nowhere else is there such a blend of outstanding historic heritage, astonishing coastlines and typical Italian 'Dolce Vita'.

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Seven nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Walking tour of Sorrento
- ✓ Guided tours of Pompeii and Naples Archaeological Museum
- ✓ Cruise to the island of Capri
- ✓ Tour of the Amalfi coast
- ✓ Visits to Ravello and Vesuvius
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel ABTA (V4744, ATOL 3430)

**DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various 2016**



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# XLV, like a Tivoli but bigger

**SSANGYONG** has announced the new Tivoli XLV, an extended body model of its already popular Tivoli compact SUV.

"Following rapid growth in the compact SUV market, SsangYong responded in 2015 by launching Tivoli, its first small SUV, and already the company's most successful new car. Some 64,000 cars were manufactured and sold around the world last year," said Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK.

"Tivoli has been praised universally for meeting a number of customer requirements, not least its ability to carry five adults in comfort and with one of the largest boot capacities, while many other cars in the sector are regarded as being a 'down-size' too far."

"Now SsangYong has gone a step further by launching an extended car to provide even more carrying capacity and practicality."

"This was shown as the XLV Air concept at the IAA motor show in Frankfurt last year, and from the extremely favourable feedback received, took the decision to put the car into production."

"Following its international debut at Geneva, the Tivoli XLV is now being launched in Europe, and arrives in the UK this summer. Annual sales from the Tivoli platform including XLV are forecast to exceed 100,000 cars this year," he added.

Sharing the same platform and 2,600mm wheelbase as the Tivoli, the XLV features a lengthened body from behind the C pillar, an increase of 238mm over the standard car, expanding the load capacity to a huge 720 cubic litres of space. Meanwhile, the styling cues that distinguish Tivoli are retained, including its harmoniously fused SUV body design, sports coupé look and floating roofline.

Designed to offer a multi-role, multi-function solution to a wide range of customers, Tivoli XLV provides just the versatility needed to meet individual lifestyles: family car for lugging baby buggies and cots for small children, bikes and golf clubs for the sports-minded, and materials or business equipment during the working week.

Passenger safety has been a top priority for this car, and comes with seven airbags including front, side and curtain airbags plus a driver's knee airbag, multi-function ESP (Electronic Stability Program), Active Rollover Protection, Brake Assist, Hill Start Assist and ESS (Emergency Stop Signal), a tyre pressure monitoring system and a warning reminder on all five seat belt positions.

## Smooth

Tivoli XLV is offered with a Euro 6 compliant 1.6 litre diesel engine, and matched with the option of a 6-speed manual transmission or 6-speed Aisin automatic, two-wheel drive or 4x4.

The newly developed 1.6 litre e-XDi160 Euro 6 diesel engine produces 115ps/3,400-4,000rpm max power with 300Nm/1,500-2,500rpm, and delivers a smooth, progressive and powerful driving experience. It also features a fifth generation E-VGT turbocharger which maximises performance especially in the mid-low speed range so it is fun and responsive to drive. With manual transmission there's also ISG (stop/start) to meet the demand for low CO2 emission levels.

The 1.6 litre diesel engine achieves a CO2 emission level of just 117g/km (two-wheel drive, manual transmission with Stop/Start), and economy of up to 62.8mpg on the Combined cycle.

The SsangYong DNA is all about 4x4, and the Tivoli XLV draws on this by offering the option of an intelligent 4-wheel drive system.



The electronically controlled on-demand system distributes power to front and rear drive shafts, and automatically adjusts to the road surface and driving conditions to optimise performance.

In normal driving, the drive system distributes all power to the front wheels to enhance fuel efficiency, and automatically adapts to 4-wheel drive in snow or wet slippery conditions, by diverting power to the rear wheels as well to ensure driving stability.

For increased stability and reassurance, particularly when driving on a hill or slope, the 4-wheel drive operates with Hill Start Assist which helps by delivering power to any wheels that are spinning. And for optimised braking

performance, ESP and ABS also control the 4x4 system for greater safety.

With a 167mm ground clearance, approach angle of 20.0 degrees, 20.8 degree departure angle, and 17.0 degree ramp angle, a highly competent off-road capability is assured.

Comprehensively equipped, the Tivoli XLV features digital-dual zone automatic air conditioning, an infotainment system with RDS radio, 7" high-resolution touch screen, USB/AUX port, iPod & Bluetooth connectivity, Tom-Tom navigation and rear view camera.

There is cruise control, parking sensors front and rear, rain sensing wipers, automatic headlight activation and stylish roof rails.

All models in the SsangYong range are cov-

ered by a best-in-class five year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system.

Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,500 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.

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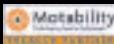
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# Enjoying life in fast line and at the top!

By Ian Donaldson

IT didn't take many miles in the Mercedes SL to consider swinging away from home and heading south to Nice, immediately. Or anywhere with plentiful mixtures of sun and gracious living, really. For here in the £73,810 - current entry level -version of a convertible line that has adorned luxury harboursides for decades is a car that wants you to enjoy life at the top.

Indeed, there may not be a better way yet devised of taking two people from their home in a high end postcode to the marina or yacht basin, there to be reunited with Seagull, Ocean Queen ... or whatever name the owner's wife broke a bottle of champagne over at the launch.

Simple figures have never told even half the story of an SL, currently available in four grades of urge and luxury and culminating in a 12 cylinder, 630 horsepower, £172,000 AMG machine that will make a hen's tooth look commonplace by comparison.

Forget the numbers (they are all limited to the responsible 155mph limit set by most German car makers of fast cars, Porsche excepted) and concentrate instead on the way every SL has trodden the taste tightrope between brash, brawn and beauty.

Mostly they've found an admirable middle point, straying only occasionally into the gaudy or vulgar.

To these eyes the current version, especially perhaps in this least expensive SL 400 guise, can confidently assume the mantle of privilege with a touch of decorum, even fitted with 19inch AMG alloy wheels in high gloss black (£895) and doorsills that light up with Mercedes-Benz lettering (£215) and remind you what you've bought as you slip aboard at night.

## Performance

But if you ever needed proof positive that a touch under seventy-four grand brings a car that allows the full SL experience, and that mere figures mean little in this car's world, consider this: for comfortably more than double the base model's price (£73,810 plays £173,315) you save 0.9 seconds on the dash to 62mph – and both cars will top out, pretty promptly, at that artificially limited 155mph already mentioned.

Of course, the 12-cylindered SL 65 deploys its 630 horses to give blinding performance in any gear, at any speed. It will also make a noise at takeoff that would silence a St Tropez cafe full of ladies doing lunch.

But the humbler SL 400 would not be considered an even slightly less delightful way for any of them to return to that charming villa in the hills.

Its 362bhp will be more than adequate and its smooth nine-speed automatic gearbox slurs the changes so gently you won't even notice.

Outside and – especially – inside, this SL feels simply very special indeed. From just right touches of silver-glimming alloy and caressingly soft leather to a level of fit and finish that must have meant all leave cancelled at the Bremen plant where it was built, this is a car that makes an owner glow with pride of ownership.

And with a specification that even in its least expensive expression takes pages of closely spaced sentences to explain, it may be just as well that SLs of any generation since the first of 1954 tend to stick around long enough to become treasured family heirlooms.

For the record, your price list starter version comes with an aluminium folding roof that works in either direction at around-town speeds, enough safety features to make a risk assessment obsessive puce with envy and sufficient luxury touches to have you studying the handbook as after-dinner homework.

Perhaps from the afterdeck of the good ship Seagull....

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**Insurance group:** 50

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Blakenall Bashers finished having won two, drawn one and lost two of their games



Blakenall Bashers keeper Tony Spruce, aged 73



Rachel Smith, centre, with DudCel's Patel Heena and Jayne Knight



DudCel player Paul Paul Osborne makes a pass

# Football game a walk in the park for competitors

**SPORTING FEATURE** By Joe Edwards

THEY say age is just a number and that certainly proved to be the case as walking football took over Molineux recently.

Over the past few years the sport has become a big hit, with thousands across the country rediscovering their love for the beautiful game thanks to the slowed-down version.

At Wolves, competitors well into their 80s lived the dream by playing on the hallowed turf in a six-team competition.

The teams involved – Bert Williams Old Boys, Blakenall Bashers, DudCel, GetSet2Go, Pete Clarke Wolves and Platty's Pensioners – played in a six-a-side round-robin format, each game lasting 10 minutes.

Unlike the traditional points system, teams were awarded five for a win, three for a draw and one for a defeat, and, after more than two hours of competition, Bert Williams Old Boys were crowned champions after going through the tournament unbeaten and picking up 21 points.

The event, organised by Black Coun-

*"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining."*

try In Motion, was part of the annual Wolves Community Trust Project Day.

Rachel Smith, sports activator for Black Country In Motion, said: "The players spent two hours on the pitch as part of the Wolves Community Trust Project Day.

"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining but it was really good to be involved with. The project day is an annual event and walking football is growing all of the time."

She added: "There was somebody who was 86 who played (Dennis Whistance from Bentley, who turned out for Pete Clarke Wolves). I think it was a lifelong ambition of his to play at Molineux as well."

"It is a great sport, especially for

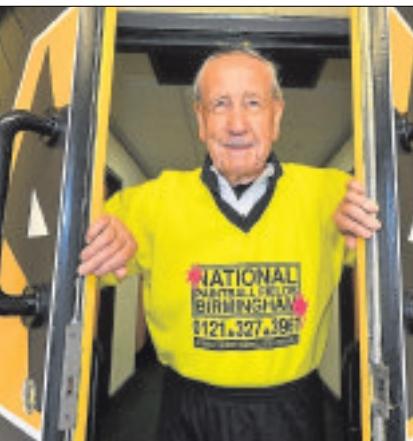
those who didn't think they would be able to carry on playing after their 40s or 50s. All in all, it was a really good day."

Walking football was first developed by Chesterfield FC's Community Trust in 2011 to keep over-50s on the pitch.

In the five years since, it has grown at an incredible rate and there are now more than 400 teams around the country. Based on the traditional game, walking football has specific rules which sees a free-kick awarded to the other side for running, while there is no offside rule and slide tackles are banned.

Substitutions are roll-on, roll-off, and the ball must remain below hip height. It was originally played without any goalkeepers but the likes of 64-year-old Stourbridge man John Cattermole and Tony Spruce, 73, were between the sticks for Bert Williams Old Boys and Blakenall Bashers respectively at Molineux.

There are plans to have another walking football competition at Molineux next year.



Dennis Whistance, aged 86, played for Pete Clarke Wolves



Dave Wright, aged 67, and grandson Billy, nine



DudCel's Dek Dudfield on the move during one his side's games in the Molineux tournament



Peter Jenkins of DudCel up against Steve Morris of Bert Williams Old Boys at Molineux

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

## Bate is first Briton home in Europeans

BLACK Country Triathletes were competing far and wide as the season sees longer distance triathlon races taking place.

A large club contingent made their way to the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham to take on the Outlaw Half Triathlon. This comprised a 1,900m open water swim, 90km bike and a 21k run, all in under nine hours to be considered an Outlaw.

Chris Wood was first home for the club in 4:30:28 finishing 20th overall and second in his age group 40-44. Neil Millward came in at 4:47:46, followed by Jon Link in 5:01:00, Tim Lake 5:22:23, Matt Price 5:31:16, Paul Silk 5:57:24, Dave Evans 6:47:54 and Lorraine Gayton 7:31:31.

The weekend also saw Keith Bate and Steve Blakemore racing in Lisbon, Portugal, representing Great Britain at the European Triathlon Championships. Bate raced in the sprint distance and came home fourth overall in his age group and first Brit home. Blakemore competed in the standard distance and came home 21st out of a large field of 76 in his age group.

Closer to home several athletes raced the Tri UK Shropshire Triathlon at Ellesmere with three of them taking podium places. Gary Bonner finished third overall in the sprint distance race and first in his age category, Lee Moreton taking third in his age group for the standard distance race and Gemma Evans finishing first in her age group, also in the standard distance race.

The juniors section also did their club proud with Reece Ashfield racing in the Nottingham Sprint Triathlon, finishing 28th overall and first youth. There were no medals taken at the Warwickshire Junior Triathlon but all the club athletes that took part had great races with some fantastic sprint finishes for the line.

## Jordanne warms up for Wimbledon with a doubles triumph

JORDANNE WHILEY says her confidence is high for Wimbledon after wrapping up her second Roland Garros doubles title with Japanese partner Yui Kamiji.

Halesowen's Whiley made up for semi-final defeat in the wheelchair singles event with a thrilling tie-break triumph alongside Kamiji.

The pair were pushed all the way by Dutch top seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot. But from 5-3 down in the deciding tie-break, Whiley and Kamiji won seven of the next eight points to successfully regain the title they won for the first time in 2014. They are now seven-time Grand Slam doubles champions, having won two Australian Opens, two French titles, two Wimbledon titles and one US Open crown.

"It's been a very successful week in the end with another Grand Slam title and finishing off with a win," said Whiley, the reigning US Open women's singles champion, who also beat world No.1 Griffioen earlier in the week to reach the singles semi-finals. "I'm really confident for Wimbledon now."

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## Walk on! Molineux competition proves stroll in park for players



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## Ladies team will grow thanks to grant

SKY Sports News presenter Hayley McQueen has congratulated Gornal Ladies FC after they received a £4,500 Grow the Game grant from the Football Foundation.

The grant from the country's largest sports provider, will boost grassroots football in Gornal and surrounding areas and will pave the way for Gornal Ladies FC to create a new girls academy and three new teams at open age, u-9s and u-11s – adding to their existing teams. It will also help to fund a number of coaches by providing access to FA coaching qualifications.

The Grow the Game scheme is designed to increase participation among under-represented

### Football

groups by helping clubs to meet the essential costs of starting new teams. It is funded by the Premier League and The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation.

Grow the Game grants enable clubs to provide regular football for three specific sections of society where there is a demand, but a lack of opportunities. These sections are: women and girls; disabled players; and boys and mens' teams from the under-15 age group and above.

Alan Moore, chairman of Gornal Ladies and

Gornal Colts said: "This grant will be a massive boost to our plans to grow the participation in the girls and ladies game within the local Gornal community and surrounding areas."

McQueen, a Football Foundation Ambassador, said: "Grants like this one make a real difference to grassroots football."

"They help clubs meet the costs associated with starting a new team – like getting volunteer coaches qualified with FA coaching badges – and so help to drive up participation levels in the sport, especially amongst under-represented groups."

## Tributes as snooker ace dies at 82

THE funeral takes place next week of Stourbridge snooker stalwart Frank Golding, who has died at the age of 82.

Mr Golding, of Kinver Constitutional Club, died on Saturday, May 21, following a long and brave battle against cancer. He will be laid to rest at Cole Street Methodist Church, Netherton, on Monday June 13. The funeral cortège is scheduled to pause outside the club around midday.

He began to play for Old Hill Conservative Club in the Stourbridge & District Snooker League in the early 1960s, along with his life-long friend, Ron Smith. They had a season playing for Kingswinford British Legion, then, having to miss a season in accordance with league rules at that time, switched to Kingswinford Conservative Club.

They began to play for Kinver in the newly opened snooker room there in the early 1970s but while Smith continues to represent the club with great success, Mr Golding's illness forced him to stand down from the team just over three years ago. He was a very good player, having most wins in the top division on one occasion.

He will also be remembered for his success as a local cricketer.

Mr Golding was asked to play for Dudley 3rd XI by the school's New Zealand cricket coach, Bill Bennett, in 1950, aged 16. Having taken seven wickets on his debut, Mr Golding played for the 2nd XI the following week, taking six wickets, and was promoted to the first XI the next week, where he stayed, opening the bowling for the next 24 years.

He resisted the call to represent the county for £7 per week, in summer months only, to concentrate on his business activities. After reaching the age of 40, Mr Golding then played for Enville Cricket Club, serving them with distinction for more than 20 years.

## Pottinger looking to get the job done

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger insists his riders will need to focus on getting the job done against Buxton at Monmore next Monday. The Heathens start their Knockout Cup second leg tie with the Hitmen at 44-all.

And Pottinger is looking for more of an all-round team performance from his side. "It's going to be important for us to get off to a good start to try and put the tie to bed early," he said.

Cradley legend Simon Cross is back at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday, June 20, from 8pm. Tickets are £6, or £5 for season ticket holders and Heathens Supporters Trust members.

\*\*\*  
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# HALES READY TO CHALLENGE

**HALESOWEN Cricket Club Chairman Richard Evans believes his team are one win away from launching a promotion challenge.**

The Halesowen First XI maintained third position in the Birmingham and District League Division Two courtesy of a resounding win at Oswestry CC.

They put in a fine bowling effort, with new overseas player Dylan Ross-Watt taking 3-44 as they dismissed the Shropshire side for 127.

Opener Ed Kilbee (87\*) led their run-chase, carrying his bat until the end of the innings as they overcame a shaky start to comfortably reach their target in just 24 overs, winning six wickets.

As they prepare to travel to Shifnal on Saturday (noon), Evans believes another win would leave them well-placed to launch a challenge for promotion over the second half of the season.

"We have a set of plans for the season for each team and by and large we are on track," said Evans. "It was great to see Dylan Ross-Watt get off to a flying start with the ball and his presence will be a factor in the success of the 1st XI season, that's for sure. The first team are sitting nicely in third with a big game next week which will allow us to assess our realistic promotion chances."

### Draw

The Second XI earned a winning draw from their clash with Walmley at the Seth Somers Park last weekend to move up to sixth in the table ahead of their home fixture against Shifnal on Saturday (12.30).

Mohammad Shaub (58) and Mark Fisher (50) both reached half-centuries to help them to a total of 250-8 from 50 overs. A fine bowling effort featuring three wickets from Shaub and two apiece for Chris Jones and Deon Patel was not enough to dismiss their opponents, who held out for a draw at 229-9.

It was another afternoon to forget for the Third XI as they slipped to a disappointing defeat. They were dismissed for just 89 by Five Ways Old Edwardians with 14-year-old Talha Iqbal (26) the only positive from a disappointing performance. With the opposition cruising to a nine-wicket win in just 14 overs, they are rooted to the bottom. They travel to Claverley this weekend.

## Young players' festival success



Tipton Youth Under-14s and Dietmar Hamann with their trophies

TIPTON Youth Under-14s rubbed shoulders with a former Liverpool star after winning the ESF Festival of Football.

They dominated the tournament, held at Butlin's Minehead, going eight games unbeaten and not conceding a single goal. They were then presented with their trophy by Dietmar Hamann.

The triumph means they automatically qualify for the ESF Grand Finale, the champion of champions event, which takes place in July at England's St George's Park training base in Burton.

German legend Hamann said: "With so many teams involved, being crowned ESF Champions

is no mean feat, so congratulations to Tipton Youth FC."

Tipton Youth have two teams at under-14 level, one in the Midland Junior Premier League and the other in Division One of the Stourbridge and District Youth League.

Tipton Youth manager Spencer Weston said: "It is a massive annual festival and we did really well because we only had 12 lads there, so one substitute. We didn't lose a game and didn't concede a single goal."

"To be crowned ESF Champions in the under-14 tournament and to be presented the trophy by Didi Hamann was a fantastic way to finish the season."

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### VAUXHALL VIVA HATCHBACK 1.0 SE 5DR

Spec includes: •Front Fog Lights • Remote Central Door Locking • Cruise control with speed limiter  
• Electrically operated front windows • Daytime running lights • City Mode for power steering  
• ABS Brakes • R300 BT with bluetooth & USB • Electrically adjustable & heated mirrors

**£1 | £2000 | £79.91 | 6.9% APR**  
DEPOSIT PART-EXCHANGE\* PER MONTH\* REPRESENTATIVE\*

Representative Finance example*	
On the Road Price	£7,999.00
47 Monthly payments	£79.91
Deposit (inc. £2,000 Part Exchange Allowance*)	£2,001.00
Amount of Credit	£5,998.00
Interest Charges	£1,283.77

Optional Final Payment	£3,526.00
Fixed rate of interest	6.68%
Duration of agreement	48 months
Total Amount Payable	£9,282.77
Excess mileage charge	£0.09
Annual mileage	5,000 p.a.
APR Representative	6.9%

\*Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000

LOW  
MONTHLY  
PAYMENTS\*

### VAUXHALL CORSA SPECIAL EDITION 1.4 ECOFLEX 3DR

**£1 | £2000 | £1400 | £119.99**  
DEPOSIT PART-EXCHANGE\* FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE PER MONTH\*

Representative Finance example*	
On the Road Price	£11,882.00
47 Monthly payments	£119.99
Deposit (inc. £2,000 Part Exchange Allowance*)	£2,001.00
Finance Deposit Allowance	£1,400.00
Amount of Credit	£8,481.20
Interest Charges	£999.35
Arrangement fee	£149.00
Credit arrangement fee	£149.00

Optional Final Payment	£4,139.00
Fixed rate of interest	£3.93%
Duration of agreement	48 months
Total Amount Payable	£13,179.55
Excess mileage charge	£0.09
Annual mileage	5,000 p.a.

**5.2% APR** REPRESENTATIVE\*

\*Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000.

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[www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk)



Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.4i 90PS Energy ecoFLEX with 16" wheels, A6: Urban: 36.2 (7.8), Extra-urban: 60.1 (4.7), Combined: 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 135g/km. Lowest: VAUXHALL Viva 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 75PS SE with Eco Tyre 14", 15" and 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 52.3 (5.4), Extra-urban: 76.3 (3.7), Combined: 65.7 (4.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 99g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. \*Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, P.O. Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 - Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. All offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

# THE GREAT SALE WEEKEND

## VAUXHALL

2010/60	Corsa Sxi 1.2 3dr Silver	31708 miles	£4,991
2011/11	Corsa Excite 1.2 Ac 3dr Black	41000 miles	£5,295
2012/61	Corsa S 1.2 Ac 5dr Silver	38728 miles	£5,491
2010/10	Astra Sxi 5dr Silver	29092 miles	£5,495
2011/61	Corsa Exclusiv 1.4 Ac 5dr Silver	34800 miles	£5,791
2009/09	Agila Club Auto Blue	37207 miles	£5,791
2011/61	Corsa Se 1.4 5dr Black	22800 miles	£5,991
2012/62	Corsa Active Ac White	18423 miles	£5,995
2012/62	Corsa Active Ac 3dr Silver	29036 miles	£5,995
2013/13	Corsa Exclusiv 1.2 Ac 5dr Grey	42860 miles	£5,999
2010/10	Meriva Se Turbo 118 Grey	20000 miles	£5,999
2010/60	Astra Exclusiv 113 5dr Silver	54000 miles	£5,999
2012/12	Meriva Exclusiv Ac 5dr Blue	23737 miles	£6,295
2013/13	Corsa Energy 1.2 Ac 3dr Blue	17847 miles	£6,491
2013/63	Corsa HAT 1.2i VWT Energy 5dr Pepperdust	10475 miles	£6,791
2013/63	Corsa Energy Ac 3dr Red	5839 miles	£6,991
2013/13	Corsa Se 1.4 5dr Grey	12023 miles	£7,295
2013/63	Corsa Energy 1.4 Ac 5dr Brown	20995 miles	£7,491
2014/64	Corsa HAT 1.2 70ps SE 3dr Blue	6725 miles	£7,491
2013/13	Meriva Exclusive 5dr Grey	20247 miles	£7,495
2013/13	Corsa Se Auto 1.4 5dr Red	21377 miles	£7,791
2013/63	Astra Energy 1.6 5dr Blue	23302 miles	£7,999
2013/13	Astra 1.4i VWT 100ps Energy Sovereign 5dr	3601 miles	£8,491
2014/64	Corsa Limited Edition 1.2 3dr Black	13327 miles	£8,491
2012/12	Astra Gtc Sri Cdti S/S Black	52000 miles	£8,495
2013/63	Astra Energy 1.6 5dr Silver	21450 miles	£8,991
2013/13	Astra Sri Cdti Ecoflex S/S Red	32625 miles	£8,999
2014/14	Astra 1.4i Energy Sovereign 5dr	6925 miles	£9,491
2015/15	Viva Si Red	7963 miles	£9,495
2015/15	Combo 2300 L1H1 Cdti Ss E Star Silver	1073 miles	£9,500+VAT
2015/15	Astra Sri 1.4 (100ps) 5dr Silver	16813 miles	£9,791
2015/15	Corsa Se 1.2 5dr Green	9058 miles	£9,791
2015/15	Corsa 1.2 Excite Ac 5dr Royal Blue	12000 miles	£9,791
2015/15	Corsa Se Ecoflex 1.4 5dr Silver	16033 miles	£9,791
2015/15	Corsa Se Ecoflex 1.4 5dr Red	16062 miles	£9,791
2012/62	Insignia Sri Nav Cdti 5dr prk Silver	28111 miles	£9,991
2014/14	Insignia Sri 1.8 5dr Grey	37207 miles	£10,291
2015/15	Corsa Sri Vx-Line 1.4 3dr White	11012 miles	£10,491
2015/15	Corsa Sri Vx-Line S/S 1.4 3dr Black	1077 miles	£10,491
2015/65	Corsa Sri Cdti Ecoflex S/S 5dr Black	5465 miles	£11,495
2014/14	Zafira Tourer Exclusiv Cd Silver	36094 miles	£12,391
2014/14	Mokka Tech Line Turbo S/S Blue	29001 miles	£12,495
2015/15	Insignia Design 1.8 Nav Silver	10925 miles	£12,995
2014/63	Mokka Se Turbo Auto Silver	14400 miles	£13,591
2015/64	Mokka Exclusiv Turbo S/S (140ps) F Blue	20985 miles	£13,791

2015/15	Mokka Se S/S White	16104 miles	£14,391
2015/15	Mokka Se S/S Black	16395 miles	£14,391
2015/15	Mokka Exclusiv Cdti S/S 1.7 Red	14893 miles	£14,495
2015/15	Mokka Exclusiv Cdti Ecoflex Grey	11744 miles	£14,795
2014/14	Ampera Electron Cvt Red	10 miles	£17,495

## SUZUKI

2005/05	Suzuki Jimmy Vvts Black	74900 miles	£4,295
2012/12	Suzuki Splash Sz2 Red	25514 miles	£5,291
2012/62	Suzuki Sx4 Sz4 Silver	37000 miles	£6,491
2013/63	Suzuki Swift Sz2 Red	10691 miles	£6,791
2014/14	Suzuki Swift Sz3 Grey	8752 miles	£6,991
2015/65	Suzuki Celerio Sz4 Auto White	608 miles	£7,791
2015/15	Suzuki Celerio HAT 1.0 SZ3 Dualjet 5dr Ablaze Red	6382 miles	£7,791
2014/64	Suzuki Swift Sz2 White	4625 miles	£7,891
2013/13	Suzuki Swift Sport Blue	2644 miles	£8,791
2014/14	Suzuki Swift Sport 5dr Silver	29160 miles	£8,991
2015/15	Suzuki Swift Sz4 Auto Black	10516 miles	£9,700
2016/16	Suzuki Swift Sz-L Blue	10 miles	£11,495
2013/63	Suzuki Grand Vitara Sz4 Black	28101 miles	£11,891

## OTHER MAKES

2010/10	Chevrolet Spark Plus Black	25596 miles	£3,491
2012/62	Chevrolet Spark Ls 5dr Red	16269 miles	£3,995
2011/11	Chevrolet Spark Plus Silver	45000 miles	£3,995
2007/07	Peugeot 207 Sport Cc Silver	32000 miles	£4,295
2011/61	Peugeot 107 Urban 3dr Red	24000 miles	£4,495
2013/13	Chevrolet Spark Ls Black	35891 miles	£4,891
2014/63	Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS 5dr Ice Silver	2823 miles	£5,291
2010/60	Fiat 500 Lounge 3dr White	45479 miles	£5,995
2012/61	Seat Ibiza Se Copa White	27000 miles	£6,595
2013/13	Fiat 500 Lounge Rhd 3dr Yellow	14310 miles	£6,991
2013/62	Toyota Yaris Tr Vvt-I 3dr Silver	25444 miles	£7,295
2013/62	Skoda Fabia Elegance Tsi 105 5dr Beige	34000 miles	£7,495
2010/10	Chevrolet Captiva Ltx 7s Vcdi A Blue	50000 miles	£7,999
2014/14	Fiat Punto Jet Black 2 Black	9000 miles	£8,291
2014/14	Ford Fiesta ZETEC 3Dr Red	28528 miles	£8,295
2012/12	Citroen Ds3 Dstyle + E-Hdi White	40843 miles	£8,491
2014/14	Volkswagen Polo Match Edition 5dr Silver	32347 miles	£8,491
2009/58	Ford Kuga Zetec Tdci Estate Blue	47076 miles	£8,991
2014/63	Chevrolet Trax Ls Grey	24600 miles	£9,495
2015/65	Ford Fiesta Zetec Turbo Blue	6500 miles	£9,691
2014/14	Trax 5Dr HAT 1.6 115ps LT St/sp Ice Silver	6982 miles	£10,495
2015/15	Nissan Juke Visia Blue	18007 miles	£10,991
2014/64	Renault Clio D-Que M-Nav Energy T Black	9500 miles	£10,999
2013/13	Skoda Yeti Se Plus Tsi S-A Grey	18751 miles	£13,291
2012/62	Chevrolet Captiva Lt Vcdi Auto White	24861 miles	£13,991

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1.2 5dr SZ4



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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km); Highest: SUZUKI Swift 1.6 2WD, M6: Urban 33.6 (8.4), extra urban from 54.3 (5.2), combined from 44.1 (6.4), official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 g/km. Lowest: SUZUKI Swift 1.2 2WD, M5: Urban 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 64.2 (4.4), combined from 56.5 (5.0), official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 116 g/km. Fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Offers subject to availability. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. \*Finance is available subject to status. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Written quotations available on request. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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## VAUXHALL MOKKA HATCHBACK 1.6i 16V EXCLUSIV 5DR

Dual-zone Electronic Climate Control • CD/MP3 CD player/ aux-in socket (CD 400) DMB digital radio  
Silver-effect roof rails • USB connection with iPod control • Cruise control • Bluetooth® functionality  
Front and rear parking distance sensors • Front fog lights

**£179<sup>.99</sup>** | **£2000** | **£3000** | **£179<sup>.99</sup>**  
DEPOSIT PART-EXCHANGE<sup>^</sup> FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE PER MONTH\*

ONLY  
**£17889** ON THE ROAD

Representative Finance example*	
On the Road Price	£17,889.39
47 Monthly payments	£179.99
Deposit (inc. £2,000 Part Exchange Allowance <sup>^</sup> )	£2,179.99
Finance Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00
Amount of Credit	£12,709.40
Interest Charges	£1,460.13
Optional Final Payment	£5,710.00
Fixed rate of interest	£3.93%

Duration of agreement	48 months
Total Amount Payable	£19,349.52
Excess mileage charge	£0.09
Annual mileage	5,000 p.a.

**4.0% APR**  
REPRESENTATIVE\*

\*Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000

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## VAUXHALL ASTRA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITION 1.4i 16V ENERGY 5DR

Spec includes: • 17-inch 10-spoke alloy wheels • Heated front seats  
Rear spoiler • Comfort front seats • Steering wheel-mounted audio controls  
AM/FM/DAB digital radio, Bluetooth® audio streaming & mobile phone portal  
USB and aux-in audio connection • Air conditioning • Cruise control with speed limiter  
Electrically operated front & rear windows • Electrically adjustable/heated door mirrors  
LED daytime running lights

**£179<sup>.99</sup>** | **£2000** | **£650** | **£179<sup>.99</sup>**  
DEPOSIT PART-EXCHANGE<sup>^</sup> FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE PER MONTH

ONLY  
**£16183** ON THE ROAD

Representative Finance example*	
On the Road Price	£16,183.73
47 Monthly payments	£179.99
Deposit (inc. £2,000 Part Exchange Allowance <sup>^</sup> )	£2,179.99
Finance Deposit Allowance	£650.00
Amount of Credit	£13,353.74
Interest Charges	£1,569.79
Optional Final Payment	£6,464.00
Fixed rate of interest	£3.93%

Duration of agreement	48 months
Total Amount Payable	£17,753.52
Excess mileage charge	£0.09
Annual mileage	5,000 p.a.

**4.0% APR**  
REPRESENTATIVE\*

\*Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000

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